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MUSWELLBROOK LOCAL
BIANCA JOHNSTON
SCORES THE NRL
WOMEN IN LEAGUE
AWARD FOR 2019.
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LEAGUE LADY



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BIG HITTERS

GLENCORE'S RAVENSWORTH MINE RAISES AN INCREDIBLE \$85,000 FOR THE HUNTER PROSTATE CANCER SUPPORT GROUP AT THEIR INAUGURAL CHARITY GOLF EVENT.



TRIPLE THREAT

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THE COAL HANDLING AND PREPARATION PLANT (CHPP) AT GLENCORE'S MANGOOLA COAL OPERATIONS TAKE HOME THREE AWARDS AT THE AUSTRALIAN MINING PROSPECT AWARDS.



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EVERYBODY LOVES A WINNER

WE LOVE TO SHARE STORIES OF PEOPLE ON TOP OF THEIR GAME, AND THERE’S PLENTY OF THOSE THIS MONTH.

First, there’s Bianca Johnston who took home the 2019 NRL Women in League Award. Championing Women’s Rugby League in her hometown of Muswellbrook, Bianca is an advocate and inspiration for women in rugby league.

We also saw the conclusion of the 57th Australian Underground Mines Rescue Competition. The Anglo-American team Grosvenor took home the trophy bringing an end to the winning streak held by NSW since 2015. But every single brigadesman is a winner in our books.

But the big winners this month are the team at the Glencore’s Mangoola Coal Handling and Preparation Plant (CHPP). They took out not one, not two, but three distinguished awards at the Australian Mining Prospect Awards. What an amazing effort.

Think you’ve got what it takes to be recognised as a winner in our industry? Entries are now open for the 2020 NSW Women in Mining Awards and the NSW Mining Industry & Suppliers Awards. Maybe we’ll be seeing you in the magazine soon!



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STEPHEN GALILEE,
CEO, NSW MINERALS
COUNCIL



RIGHT NOW IN NSW, THE DECISION TO APPROVE JOB-CREATING MINING PROJECTS IS LEFT UP TO AN UNELECTED AND UNACCOUNTABLE PART-TIME PANEL FROM THE INDEPENDENT PLANNING COMMISSION, OR IPC.

The IPC has become clunky, inefficient and obsolete, causing uncertainty, massive delays and ultimately costing jobs and investment. It needs a complete overhaul.

And we’re seeing a growing need for urgent action. Only recently it was revealed that after years at the top of the ladder, the NSW economy has fallen to third place behind Victoria and Tasmania. Without policy changes NSW will not regain number one again, meaning jobs and investment will go elsewhere.

The NSW Government has announced a review of the IPC which is a good first step. However, ‘reviews’ are often an excuse for politicians to delay taking any real action and to avoid doing anything meaningful. This can’t be allowed to happen this time.

GIVEN WHAT’S AT STAKE, THIS NEEDS TO BE A SERIOUS REVIEW THAT DELIVERS SERIOUS REFORM. THE CURRENT PROCESS IS COSTING JOBS AND INVESTMENT FOR NSW, AND HAS BECOME A THREAT TO THE NSW ECONOMY. WE NEED TO SEE REAL CHANGES TO THE WAY JOB-CREATING INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS ARE ASSESSED, AND THE IPC’S ROLE IN THE PROCESS.

Sadly we’ve recently seen the IPC damage the NSW economy, including the botched announcement of an extension of the

Rix’s Creek mining operation, creating uncertainty for over 300 Hunter mining workers and their families. In addition, the IPC’s recent decisions on the Bylong and Dartbrook mining projects ignored the advice of a wide range of departments and agencies including the Department of Planning, costing NSW over a billion dollars in investment and more than 1,200 desperately needed regional jobs.

It’s little wonder that Ray, owner of the Kandos Pub in mid-western NSW described the IPC’s rejection of the Bylong mine as ‘another knife in our guts’ for his local community. Ray and others in Kandos and nearby Rylstone had hoped the Bylong project would deliver an economic lifeline to their struggling communities, but that has been ripped away by the IPC.

THE IPC REVIEW SHOULD THEREFORE ALSO INVESTIGATE HOW THESE RECENT DETERMINATIONS WERE REACHED CONTRARY TO THE ADVICE AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND OTHER NSW GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES FOLLOWING COMPREHENSIVE AND DETAILED ASSESSMENTS.

The time has come for the NSW Government to restore certainty to the project assessment process in NSW or we will continue to lose jobs and investment interstate and overseas.

Stephen Galilee, CEO, NSW Minerals Council



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OPINION



TANIA CONSTABLE

TALKING ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH

THE VALUE OF GOOD MENTAL HEALTH IS STARTING TO COME OUT OF THE SHADOWS AS MORE PEOPLE START TALKING ABOUT IT. MORE EMPLOYERS IN MINING ARE ALSO EMBRACING THE SIMPLE FACT THAT GOOD MENTAL HEALTH MEANS A MORE PRODUCTIVE WORKFORCE AND A SAFER WORKPLACE.

The MCA has long recognised that mental health is part of our commitment to health and safety, where everyone who goes to work in the industry returns home safely. One in five Australians will suffer from mental health problems such as anxiety and depression in any year. The mining sector is no different.

IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW IS GOING THROUGH A TOUGH TIME HELP IS AVAILABLE THROUGH ORGANISATIONS LIKE LIFELINE ON 13 11 14 AND MATES IN MINING ON 1300 642 111.

In 2015, we released the Blueprint for Mental Health, which was built on the great work of the NSW Minerals Council, the University of Newcastle's Institute for Energy and Resources, Centre for Resources Health and Safety and the Hunter Institute of Mental Health. The Blueprint made the point that if mental health problems are left unaddressed, they can increase rates of accidental injury in the workplace.

It also estimated that mental health issues cost the mining industry between \$320 million and \$450 million per year, or up to \$400,000 for an average site of 170 people.

Mental health problems are first and foremost tough on an individual and their families and friends. They also affect industry productivity, so it's important that companies and workplaces do as much as they can to support the mental health and wellbeing of employees.

A recent report by the Shared Value Project suggests that mental health-related issues are costing the Australian economy \$60 billion a year.

Evidence suggests that businesses get a \$2.30 return on investment for

every dollar spent on mental health prevention and through reducing health care costs. In mining, the return is even higher – an average of \$5.70 for every dollar invested.

AUSTRALIA'S MINING INDUSTRY IS DELIVERING A RANGE OF PROGRAMS THAT PROMOTE MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING, PREVENT PROBLEMS AND PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE AND EARLY RESPONSE.

Research suggests that at work, people are more likely to seek help from colleagues than more formal support programs. This message was reinforced recently when the MCA heard from the outstanding team at MATES in Mining when Vince and Kieran spoke to us about suicide awareness and prevention.

Regular readers of @ The Coalface will have heard about Mates in Mining, however for many of our staff this session was a real eye-opener. The MATES program brings together training and support,

a smart approach given that one without the other can create more problems.

Not only does the MATES program – supported by unions and the industry – use training as a tool to raise awareness that there is a problem with suicide and outline risk factors, it also shows us how we can all be part of the solution.

The MCA will work with MATES in Mining in 2020 to support them directly and get their wise and experienced input on some projects to help our mining workforce get the best out of life.

Our member companies are also showing the way with their own programs. All this tells us that we've all got a part to play to build better mental health in the industry – it can't be left to the mental health professionals alone.

Tania Constable
CEO, Minerals Council of Australia

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IN THE NEWS...

EXPLORATION COULD BE ON THE CARDS AT WOLLAR

There has been a recommendation to the NSW Government for coal exploration at Wollar.

The Advisory Body for Strategic Release, which controls the state's minerals reserves, has written to Deputy Premier John Barilaro recommending the government approves the development of the Hawkins-Rumker area in the central tablelands and a Wollar field.

The two large coal fields could be getting opened for exploration.

But at the moment, John Barilaro has told Radio Hunter Valley in a statement that "no decision has been made by the NSW Government to open up areas to strategic release".

TWO CONTRACTORS MAKE A RUN FOR IT

The Resources Regulator says a contractor at the Mount Arthur mine at Muswellbrook suffered knee injuries when a large amount of water flowed into sump at a wash plant.

A BHP spokesperson has told Radio Hunter Valley that on October 16 two workers were putting up scaffolding in an enclosed sump when about 3,000 litres of water flowed into the area they were working in from an overflow at the top of the plant.

The level of water in the sump rose dramatically causing the workers to quickly exit the sump as the water rose above the egress point - as a result of the quick exit one worker suffered knee injuries.

Inspectors attended Mount Arthur the following day and the BHP spokesperson said they continue "to work with the regulator to ensure the highest safety standards are met when our people work in confined spaces".

DARTBROOK NOT DONE

Australian Pacific Coal has said in a statement that they will appeal the Independent Planning Commission's decision to not extend the life of Dartbrook Coal Mine.

In August the IPC approved the restart of underground operations at the Dartbrook Coal Mine, but rejected a 5 year extension beyond the current permit which ends December 5, 2022 saying it was not in the public interest to extend the mine's life.

Australian Pacific hopes to have the decision amended to allow mining operations to restart and give it a "reasonable time frame for the mining to facilitate the necessary capital costs which will be incurred."

SCOPE THREE EMISSIONS COULD BE GOING, GOING, GONE...

A package of measures were introduced to NSW Parliament to prevent scope-three measures being imposed on mining companies.

Deputy Premier John Barilaro said the proposed legislation will clarify the concerns around the export of coal after a recent decision by the Independent Planning Commission to impose a scope-three emissions condition on the approval of the United Wambo coal project.

ONE MILLION REASONS TO SMILE

Around 80 farmers in Murrurundi have one million reasons to smile.

Through a joint initiative of company Finish and drought charity Rural Aid, 1 million litres of water was delivered to farmers at Murrurundi.

Finish have been running a campaign called the #FinishWaterWaste initiative which encourages Australians to turn off the tap and stop pre-rinsing their dishes to save up to 40 litres of water per load, and in turn promises to donate 6.8 million litres of water to communities suffering from the drought, including Murrurundi.

Scope-three emissions refer to companies having to regulate greenhouse gas emissions in the company they sell their product to outside Australia.

The United Wambo coal project headed up by Glencore and Peabody Energy is worth \$381 million will see the open cut mining operations at the existing United Wambo Coal Mine and United Colliery integrated and expanded.

The approval will facilitate the extraction of an additional 150 million tonnes of run-of-mine coal over a 23-year period.



NEWS ANNOUNCER JESSICA ROUSE FROM RADIO HUNTER VALLEY HAS THE LATEST NEWS STORIES

#BUY REGIONAL

Now more than ever, rural and regional Australia needs every Aussie to #BuyRegional this Christmas.

The NSW Government has kicked off a campaign encouraging everyone to support small businesses in drought-affected communities in a bid to keep regional and rural towns alive and keep the money flowing.

The benefits of people buying from these small businesses are numerous, not only is it bringing money in but One Day Closer To Rain's Cassandra McLaren said it is helping mental health as well.

"It's an amazing thing to watch unfold and just see people really uplifted and as well it's a little bit of hope and a little bit of love and its really shining through on these pages," said Cassandra.

The Buy Regional for Christmas hub is at: www.nsw.gov.au/buyregional.

DAM GOOD NEWS

It's dam good news for farmers in future droughts.

The Morrison and Berejiklian Governments joined forces announcing \$1 billion to build a new dam and upgrade another.

The combined funding will deliver a \$650 million upgrade of Wyangala Dam in the state's Central West and a \$480 million new Dungowan Dam near Tamworth.

The Wyangala Dam at Forbes on the Lachlan River in the central west will have its dam wall raised by 10 metres increasing the capacity by 650 gigalitres; the new Dungowan Dam will be constructed 3.5 kilometres downstream from the current dam that has served the community since 1958.

UNDER REPORTING OF LONG SERVICE LEAVE IS JUST THE BEGINNING

Representatives of the Coal Mining Industry (Long Service Funding) Corporation were questioned for the first time at a Senate Committee on the alleged under reporting of mine workers long service leave.

One Nation Senator Malcolm Roberts peppered the representatives for 20 minutes on the under reporting of hours.

He said they were not "looking after the responsibilities of casual workers who work on a fulltime roster, work shoulder to shoulder with full-time employees, with a roster [set] out two years [ahead], 40 per cent underpaid, their hours not reported correctly with LSL, and then they leave before they can get paid out their LSL".

Stuart Bonds ran for One Nation at the Federal Election for the seat of Hunter and said when they were asked if instances of under reporting of hours had been brought to their

attention, they said it had.

"They replied that it had been but they checked with the employer and the employer said the hours were correct but the employees have shown their paperwork and paper slips don't match up with their service history in the Coal LSL system so what that means is that the hours have been under reported," he said.

"This needs further investigation to find out how widespread the practice is."



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SOCIALLY Acceptable

MORE AND MORE EMPLOYERS ARE USING SOCIAL MEDIA TO TRACK WHAT THEIR EMPLOYEES ARE UP TO AND IN SOME CASES USING THAT INFORMATION TO EVEN SACK THEIR EMPLOYEES. THE CFMEU HAS SOME GREAT ADVICE ON SOCIAL MEDIA DO'S AND DON'TS.

READ YOUR COMPANY'S SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

Many companies take their employees' social media activity seriously. Make sure you read and understand your company's social media policy which is likely to cover the following issues: don't make comments that reflect negatively on your employer; don't share confidential information; don't comment on issues you aren't authorised to. While each company will have a different policy, they all boil down to this: be very careful about what you say online about your employer and workplace. If in doubt, say nothing.

STAY OFF FACEBOOK ON YOUR SICK DAY

If you're on a sick day, don't post from your holiday house, 'check in' at the airport or share pics from a wild party. There may be a perfectly innocent explanation, but the CFMEU say they have seen members sacked

over careless posts that suggested they weren't spending their time in a manner fitting with their personal leave. If you can't stay away, stick to updates from your sick bed. Even though you're not 'friends' with the boss on Facebook, always assume that your social media posts can find their way into the wrong hands.

BE EXTRA CAREFUL DURING INDUSTRIAL ACTION

During industrial action, it's common for companies to hire private security to run surveillance on what's happening on the picket line. This has now extended to scanning workers' social media posts. When you're on strike, you can still be sacked for breaching company policy, such as using offensive language towards other employees or attacking the company. Using a pseudonym won't save you either. In one case, a striking member letting off steam under a fake name was identified by the company via their IP address. In general, any commentary about industrial action – even if it's on social media – should be left to lodge or district officials who can comment on behalf of the union.

DON'T TAKE OR SHARE PHOTOS FROM WORK

Everyone loves photos of big diggers and mining machinery, especially



THANKS TO THE CFMEU FOR SHARING THESE GREAT TIPS

when there's been a bingle. But employers look very darkly at workers taking unauthorised photos on the work site – especially if they find their way into the public through media or social media sites. Photos can get you into trouble for a range of reasons, like if they are perceived by the employer as affecting their reputation, if they show workers (including you) doing the wrong thing, or if they include sensitive information or imagery. If you receive such a photo, don't share it. Remember, as part of an investigation your employer can request your phone records.

'VAGUEBOOKING' CAN GET YOU IN TROUBLE TOO

"Can't believe he did that. I'm spewing" ... You know those annoying status updates that suggest something's up, but you don't know what it is? That's a vaguebook and it can get you into trouble too. Even if a post doesn't mention the workplace or any particular individuals, your employer can still make a case

that you are referencing work and take disciplinary action.

WAIT, THERE'S MORE ...

- A few more tips for good measure:
- Don't denigrate your workmates on social media, it can be seen as bullying.
- It's not just your own posts - comments on other people's posts can get you into trouble too.
- Remember that 'closed' groups are never really private.
- Deleting a post doesn't make it disappear forever.
- It's better not to list your employer on your social media accounts.

Social media blurs the lines between the public and personal like never before and as platforms evolve, so do the issues and risks that workers face.

Everyone who wants to should be able to enjoy using social media, but we want you to do it safely. The bottom line is that if you wouldn't say it in front of the boss, don't say it on social media.

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THIS SAYING IS PROUDLY DISPLAYED ON A SIGN AT GLENCORE'S MANGOOLA COAL OPERATIONS. WITH THE COAL HANDLING AND PREPARATION PLANT (CHPP) TAKING HOME THREE AWARDS AT THE RECENT AUSTRALIAN MINING PROSPECT AWARDS IT'S CLEARLY A SAYING THAT THEY LIVE BY.

Since starting operations in 2011, Mangoola has been building a reputation as one of our industry's top notch coal operations, however the spotlight is normally shone on their exemplary rehabilitation work. The recent wins for Excellence in Occupational Health & Safety, Coal Mine of the Year and Australian Mine of the Year are proof that they are leaders in all areas. We met up with Mangoola CHPP Manager Chris March to find out what it takes to take out not one, not two, but three distinguished awards.

"The thing is we only put our name up for the OHS award," Chris says.

"So to receive the three accolades is simply terrific. It's great recognition, not just for Mangoola prep plant, but for the whole Mangoola operation. We are just one department and it's a reflection of the high standards that are set right across the site."

So how did they end up with three trophies? It all started when Mangoola CHPP were scheduled to conduct a fairly tricky maintenance overhaul procedure replacing chain feeder plates. The chain feeder transfers material from the ROM coal bin to the coal sizer, with top and bottom plates bolted

to the main frame of the chain feeder. Historically, replacing these plates is a lengthy task undertaken in restricted spaces and under suspended loads. In 2016, at another mine site, a person had suffered a fatal crush injury whilst doing this task.

"We knew of the industry fatality and as we too had to tackle the same job, we knew we had to find a safer way to do it. I said to our team – 'You know what needs to be done, so go to it' and then I gave them the time and the support to do so," says Chris.

AFTER 9 MONTHS OF PLANNING THE CHPP TEAM HAD DESIGNED A RAIL AND HYDRAULIC SYSTEM AND IMPLEMENTED IT SUCCESSFULLY. BY USING THE COMBINATION OF RAIL AND HYDRAULICS, THEY WERE ABLE TO TAKE PEOPLE AWAY FROM THE AREAS OF HIGHER RISK AS WELL AS SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCING THE TIME NEEDED TO REPLACE THE PLATES.

The innovation uses a hydraulic, trolley mounted lifting table, travelling on a rail system. It allows old plates to be removed and railed out, and new plates to be railed in and lifted squarely into position without exposing employees to suspended loads.

"From start to finish the job took 36 hours without so much as a scratch on any person," says Chris proudly. "There were also some unintended benefits that come from it as well. Some of the modifications to the equipment we put back in will allow us to eliminate all hot work the next time we do the job."

"The credit for this project has to go to Maintenance Supervisor Scott Bannerman. He came up with design, worked with suppliers, oversaw the operations and all whilst going about his day job. It also couldn't have been done without Downer Maintenance Superintendent Shaun Egan and a willing team of personnel made this project a success."



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CHRIS SAID ONE OF THE THINGS THAT HE REALLY LIKE ABOUT THE PROJECT IS THAT IT'S A GREAT EXAMPLE OF SOLVING PROBLEMS THROUGH ENGINEERING SOLUTIONS.

"It's not a job that is done often and may only occur once every 5 and 7 years. But it's an onerous job. Onerous jobs lead to shortcuts and that's when incidents occur. What we've demonstrated here is that you can climb all the way up the hierarchy of controls and look for an engineering solution instead of looking at administrative solutions. There are other problems out there like this one where if we commit the time and the money, we can come up with the engineering solution and eliminate all the risks."

During the job the team recorded the whole process using time lapse photography and using this they decided to put forward an entry for the Prospect Awards. Not only did they get selected as a finalist, but the judges also nominated them for the Coal Mine of the Year category which also included nomination for Australian Mine of the Year.

"On the night we thought we had a shot at the OHS award but weren't even thinking about the other awards. We were so happy when we got called for the OHS gong. Then we got called out for the Coal Mine of the Year and I was blown away. Then at the end of the night when they called us up for Australian Mine of the Year, I couldn't believe we were walking away with a trifecta of awards. It was amazing. Though I was running out of things



MANGOOLA
1: L-R: SHAUN
EGAN, SCOTT
BANNERMAN,
CHRIS MARCH

to say by the end of the night," Chris adds with a grin.

BUT FOR THE HIGH PERFORMING TEAM AT MANGOOLA CHPP THERE IS ANOTHER ACHIEVEMENT THAT MEANS MUCH MORE THAN ANY TROPHY. SINCE COMMENCING OPERATIONS IN 2011 THE CHPP TEAM HAS HAD NOT ONE LOST TIME INJURY. THAT'S OVER 3000 DAYS AND COUNTING.

"That is such a significant achievement for any prep plant given the high intensity cycle of maintenance. Every fortnight there is 150 – 200 people working on top of each other with a lot of high-risk work and to not have sustained an injury and only a handful of first aid injuries, it really is an outstanding achievement. It all comes down to the culture here, not only of our people, but the many hundreds of

contractors who come in and are treated as part of the team."

Chris goes on to explain how they ascribe to a leader culture and not a leader follower culture and over the last few years have rolled out several initiatives to foster that culture. It's about encouraging every person to take responsibility and be accountable to keep each other safe.

"WE HAVE TO LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER. WE CAN HAVE ALL THE PROCEDURES AND POLICIES AND STANDARDS AND CODES OF PRACTICE IN THE WORLD, BUT HOW YOU EXECUTE ALL THOSE THINGS ON THE GROUND AND LOOK AFTER EACH OTHER IS THE CRITICAL PART."

"The job of a leader is to lead people to a better place. Whether that's a safer place, a more productive place, or simply a place where they feel valued as part of the team. For me personally, driving these leadership initiatives is what I'm most proud of. The people on the frontline are everything to a business and developing their leadership skills and making sure they are happy and productive will roll back out to everyone. We are blessed with the character of people we have. We've won these awards because of them."

This is the second time that Mangoola has won the Australian Mine of the Year at the Prospect Awards, first taking the title back in 2013. We reckon it won't be the last.



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CALL OUT TO COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY MEMBERS ARE BEING ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND THE UPPER HUNTER MINING DIALOGUE ANNUAL FORUM ON NOVEMBER 19 TO HELP MAKE THE UPPER HUNTER A BETTER PLACE FOR ALL TO LIVE AND CAP OFF A BUSY YEAR OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FOR THE DIALOGUE.



The Annual Forum, to be held at the Singleton Civic Centre, allows community, government and the mining industry to come together and collaborate on the future path of the Dialogue.

The Dialogue is encouraging community members to have their input into the UHMD which was formed in 2011 and works to lessen the impacts of mining. However, as seating is limited community representatives should register their attendance via email at info@nswmining.com.au

The forum will feature a 90-minute networking session which will allow community members to explore current Dialogue projects and discuss issues and programs with mining and government representatives. Forum attendees will also be able to "tour" a mine on the day through the Dialogue's new virtual reality video.

THE NETWORKING SESSION WILL ALSO FEATURE EXHIBITS BY MINING PROCUREMENT REPRESENTATIVES AND ALLOW THE UPPER HUNTER'S BUSINESS COMMUNITY TO TALK DIRECTLY TO THE MINES' PROCUREMENT DEPARTMENTS.

As part of the strategies developed at last year's Annual Forum the Dialogue has increased its community engagement in 2019.

In the past 12 months, the Dialogue has displayed at 11 community events to promote its activities and discuss current issues with community representatives; the discussions and surveys conducted at the events help the Dialogue develop its ongoing strategies and projects.

As part of its community engagement program, the Dialogue has also presented to Upper Hunter mines' community consultative committees throughout the year.

FULL INFORMATION ABOUT THE ANNUAL FORUM CAN BE FOUND AT WWW.NSWMINING.COM.AU/DIALOGUE/EVENTS

Time to Shine

ENTRIES NOW OPEN FOR THE 2020 NSW WOMEN IN MINING AWARDS AND THE NSW MINING INDUSTRY & SUPPLIERS AWARDS

The Awards showcase the best of our industry and are an opportunity to reward some of the remarkable achievements throughout the year. This year's awards featured some truly inspiring stories and it's time again to nominate those who are going above and beyond.

If you have a colleague or if you're working on a project that deserves recognition, this is the opportunity to share your story and showcase all the good things about our industry.

Nominations Close on Friday 13 December 2019 and finalists will be announced on Monday 27 January 2020.

[HTTP://WWW.NSWMINING.COM.AU/EVENTS](http://WWW.NSWMINING.COM.AU/EVENTS)



CHECK OUT NSW MINING'S TOP TIPS FOR MAKING YOUR SUBMISSION STAND OUT FROM THE CROWD.

1. Give yourself enough time - don't leave it until the last minute!
2. Enlist help early - get help from your media team or someone who is skilled at advocating.
3. Address the judging criteria - use the award category criteria to answer questions specifically.
4. Quantify results - in other words 'show, don't tell'.
5. Provide supporting evidence - provide visual evidence to support your claims like photos, videos or reports.
6. Aim for the sky and go for high-quality - spelling, punctuation and language use is important.

7. Stick to the word count - be succinct and focus on key points.
8. KISS - Keep it simple and be specific with as many metrics, facts and figures as you can measure up.
9. Ice the cake - for individual awards include achievements in areas like volunteering, philanthropy, or specialised training. For company awards, explain what sets you apart from the rest.
10. Review - ensure the submission has been approved by relevant stakeholders and someone who can give you honest and objective feedback.

In conclusion, make it EASY for the judges. Sell yourself or your program and convince them why you deserve to be the winner.

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DO **you** NEED TO
calm down OR
PUT YOUR **hand up?**

PUBLISHERS OPINION – WHAT ARE THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RATES WITHIN THE MINING INDUSTRY? I’M NOT SURE, BUT ANY IS TOO MANY. SUICIDE AND MENTAL HEALTH ARE AS BIG A PROBLEM FOR OUR INDUSTRY AS ANY OTHER. WITH SHIFT WORK AND OTHER STRESSES, IT IS A REASONABLE BET THAT IT’S HIGHER THAN THE NATIONAL AVERAGE.

Someone in poor mental health just can’t use it as an excuse to inflict fear and misery on those close to them. In the same way, someone who knows or suspects that an individual is suffering poor mental health or inflicting domestic violence on another needs to speak up.

It’s a scary and confronting situation to thrust yourself into or own up to, but the potential outcomes are just too confronting for you to not address the problem. Speak up or pull them aside and try to talk about what you suspect in a sensitive and respectful way. If that doesn’t work, take action and notify whoever you need to deal with it.

IF YOU ARE THE ONE DOING THE WRONG THING, GET HELP AS SOON AS YOU CAN BECAUSE THE CHANCES ARE IT WILL ONLY GET WORSE AND MORE DIFFICULT TO FACE.

If you need help, talk to a mate, go see your doctor or try at least ringing one of the wonderful helplines we are lucky enough to have in this country. Mates in Mining, Beyond Blue, 1800RESPECT, Lifeline and others are there to get you the best possible help.

Look after yourselves people, and just as importantly, look after those around you that you love. Life is short, but it can be a wonderful place when you are free of debilitating anger and its consequences.

If you have no one to talk to, my number is in the front of this book. Call me anytime.



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Limit of one entry per person. LTPM/19/04020

By submitting an entry, you consent to the use of your contact details for promotional and marketing purposes.

Tragically we recently lost two local mine workers to a murder/suicide and it was beyond heartbreaking – not to mention needless. Domestic violence is an often hidden and unreported tragedy all around Australia and the world. It is only the ignorant who would think that it is not a problem in our industry and locally.

Family, domestic and sexual violence is a major national health and welfare issue that can have lifelong impacts for victims and perpetrators. It affects people of all ages and from all backgrounds, but predominantly affects women and children.

THE AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS IN 2016 ESTIMATED THAT 2.2 MILLION ADULTS HAVE BEEN VICTIMS OF PHYSICAL AND/OR SEXUAL VIOLENCE FROM A PARTNER SINCE THE AGE OF 15.



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ABORIGINAL SCARRED TREES

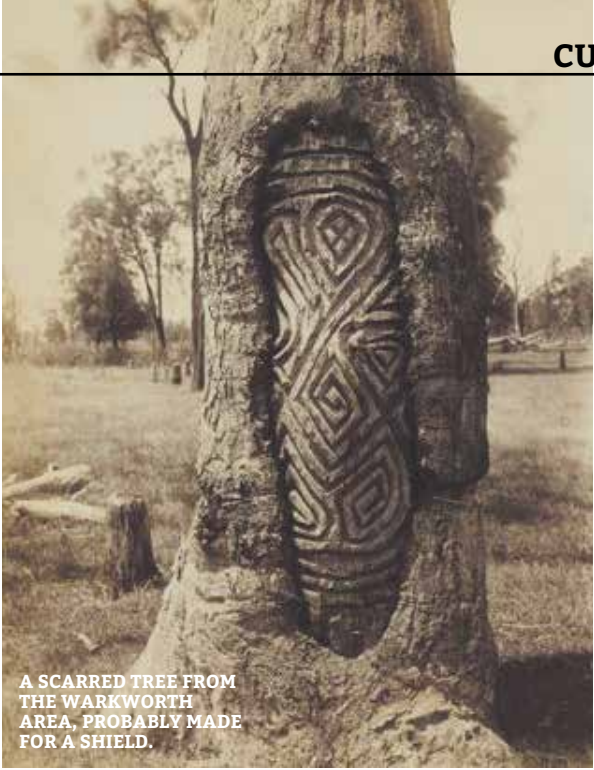
ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE SITES ARE A COMMON FEATURE IN THE LANDSCAPE AND ARE VERY SIGNIFICANT PLACES AS THEY PROVIDE A PHYSICAL LINK BETWEEN TODAY'S ABORIGINAL PEOPLE AND THEIR ANCESTORS. WHILE ITS USUALLY STONE ARTEFACT SCATTERS THAT SPRING TO MIND WHEN WE THINK OF THESE PLACES, SCARRED TREES ARE ALSO IMPORTANT SITES THAT GIVE US AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE DAILY LIVES OF ABORIGINAL PEOPLE IN DAYS GONE BY.

Trees were scarred through the removal of bark for traditional purposes such as shield and dish making, or even for canoes. Prior to the arrival of Europeans, stone axes were used to cut into the trunk of certain trees to obtain the bark that was then used to make wooden implements. The exposed sapwood becomes a scar that will dry out and no longer allow bark to grow over it, although the tree will continue to grow. Eucalypts such as box and red gum were favoured for scarring.

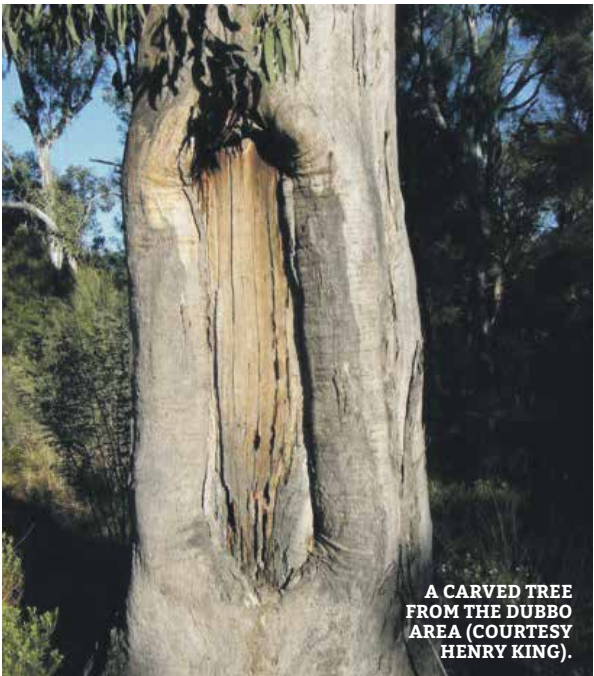
Sometimes patterns were also carved into scars. These carved trees may have served as warning or marker trees that alerted people to the presence of important ceremonial, burial or sacred places nearby.

Although once commonplace, scarred trees are becoming increasingly rare as these trees age and die, with those remaining being of a considerable age. Depending on when an area was last used traditionally by Aboriginal people, most remaining scarred trees would be at least 120 years old.

So next time you're out camping or bushwalking, keep your eyes peeled and you might be lucky enough to see one these trees and get a glimpse of how the landscape was used by Aboriginal people for thousands of years.



A SCARRED TREE FROM THE WARKWORTH AREA, PROBABLY MADE FOR A SHIELD.



A CARVED TREE FROM THE DUBBO AREA (COURTESY HENRY KING).



A PROBABLE CANOE TREE FROM THE GLENNIES CREEK AREA.

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After Beethoven died music could be heard from his grave. People gathered around and they could hear his 8th symphony playing in reverse... Then the 7th... And the 6th.

Suddenly the priest realised what was happening and made an announcement, "Everything is okay people! It's just Beethoven decomposing."

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OPINION

A COMMON SENSE APPROACH TO THE CLIMATE DEBATE

LET'S MAKE
ACTIVISM A
POSITIVE,
PRODUCTIVE AND
INNOVATIVE
PURSUIT.

Let's face it, life on our fragile planet has always been one of constant adaptation. Over the millennia of habitation, innovation has always been a key factor to finding ways to work with Earth's personal path to keep ourselves fed and sheltered from the elements. The elements that can be driven by the never ending cycles of natural warming and cooling.

The daily needs of a burgeoning world population will always be a fine balance between providing for the population's needs and at the same time lessening the impact on the fine natural balance of the planet. This is where innovation has to play a key role.

KEEP IN MIND:

We live on a planet that is at its centre 'molten'. It spins around every 24 hours and over a 365 day period it currently tilts at a precarious 23.5% on its axis and surprise, surprise over a 40,000 year period the tilt can vary between 22.1 and 24.5% which can lead to extreme changes in our climate and seasons.

This molten planet spins around a Sun every 365¼ days and that Sun is a glowing sphere of hot volatile gases. The Sun experiences periods of unstable outbursts to create solar storms affecting all of the planets in the system, thus creating more short and long term changes in our atmosphere and climate. Add into the mix the Moon, that circles the earth to create some gravitational pull to try and stabilise the earth's wobble on its axis. And just to spice it up further add a few meteor showers from time to time.

THE ONE THING THAT SHOULD ALWAYS BE KEPT CLEARLY IN THE MIND OF OUR ACTIVIST IS THAT OUR PLANET, FONDLY KNOWN AS EARTH, IS AMAZINGLY RESILIENT IN ITS OWN RIGHT.

Let's look at ways to put all our energies into innovative ideas that will continually lessen our impact and add to the planet's good health while preserving what is good about what we already have woven into our everyday lives. For the areas where we can make change we should be mindful and aim to implement change. However, it has no sense to implement wholesale change that impoverishes many in the community.

ECONOMIC RUIN WILL ONLY LIMIT THE GOVERNMENT'S ABILITY TO PROVIDE FOR INNOVATION, EDUCATION, HEALTH AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS TO IMPROVE THE WELL-BEING OF ALL IN OUR COMMUNITIES.

Holistic approaches by all races and countries is a great aim. However, innovation needs to be applied in measured ways to meet the needs of all individual regions. Quick fix satellite sacrifices do not serve any purpose when you have other Nations wilfully ignoring their impact.

Some changes can be introduced quickly and bring about immediately identifiable benefits. Others need to be introduced in stages to bring about sustained change that keeps a focus on all civilisations' well-being as the changes are introduced. Sometimes these changes can take mere weeks or at the very the least, centuries.

There are countries with millions of people living in cities that have been built in what should be classified as inhospitable regions. These cities or in or beside desert areas (Middle East – Qatar, Dubai, USA – California, China). They rely heavily on all available fuels to run their air conditioning, to run their desalination plants, to enable cooking and for their people to generally survive day to day living.

Some of these Nations are wealthy and have vast reserves of fuels in the way of oil, gas, coal and therefore have a reluctance to make change. It is always hoped that like the rest of the World these regions are resourcing research into long-term alternate energies and ways for individuals to consider their personal impact.

While we all currently do not (and may never) have a global approach, it is foolhardy to endanger the well-being of any one Nation, especially ours in isolation. That said, you do not ever give up on the quest to bring about change.

In the history of habitation of this planet some change has been taken over many generations and some changes have been harsh. Pursuit of the quick fix is dangerous and rarely sustainable. All civilisations should be open to looking at the long term planning and the changes that will be necessary to meet the challenges that the planet will deliver of its own volition.

LASTING CHANGE CAN BEST BE ENGENDERED THROUGH POSITIVE, PRODUCTIVE AND INNOVATIVE WAYS TO WORK WITH THE NATURAL IDIOSYNCRASIES OF THIS AMAZING PLANET.

Our school children deserve to live in a land of hope and inspiration. The current trend to derail and hijack their educational pursuits through dramatic efforts to instil fear into their everyday thinking is deplorable. Our children deserve hope and should be encouraged to be part of quest for innovation and resilience.

SUZIE MESSNER IS COAL INDUSTRY VETERAN DEDICATED TO CREATING A BETTER WORLD AND PROVIDING A REASONED VOICE AROUND THE ENERGY DEBATE.



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LEARN FROM THE LAWMAN

STUART BARNETT IS OUR MINING INDUSTRY'S LEADING PERSONAL INJURY LAWYER. THIS MONTH HE HAS SOME IMPORTANT ADVICE ABOUT CLAIMS FOR WORKERS COMPENSATION FOR INDUSTRIAL DEAFNESS AND WHICH EMPLOYER THE CLAIM IS TO MADE AGAINST.



This is general advice and because your individual circumstances will vary, I recommend seeking out specific advice for your needs.

STUART BARNETT, SLATER & GORDON LAWYERS

Industrial Deafness is common in both the Coal Mining and Non-Coal Mining environments. It is sometimes referred to as Boilermakers Deafness. In short, the term refers to hearing loss caused by exposure to loud noise. Because of the high level of industrial deafness in the Coal Mining industry this will be the first in a series of articles about the topic.

INDUSTRIAL DEAFNESS USUALLY ARISES OVER A PERIOD OF TIME WITH ONGOING EXPOSURE TO LOUD NOISE AND IT IS OFTEN NOT POSSIBLE TO DETERMINE WHEN A WORKER SUFFERS THE DISEASE. IT IS ALSO NOT UNCOMMON FOR THE WORKER TO HAVE BEEN EMPLOYED BY SEVERAL OR INDEED MANY EMPLOYERS OVER THE PERIOD. THE LAW PROVIDES A MECHANISM FOR DETERMINING WHICH EMPLOYER THE CLAIM SHOULD BE MADE AGAINST.

A claim for Industrial Deafness is made against the last employer, where the nature of the employment is capable of causing Industrial deafness, often colloquially referred to as "your last noisy employer". This is so even if the worker has not been employed with that employer for a lengthy period.

IN SOME CASES IF THERE IS A DISPUTE ABOUT WHETHER THE LEVEL OF NOISE IN A PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT IS CAPABLE OF CAUSING INDUSTRIAL DEAFNESS SPECIAL EQUIPMENT IS BOUGHT IN TO MEASURE THE NOISE LEVEL.

In a general sense most, if not all, mine sites and Coal Handling Plants are regarded as sufficiently noisy to be capable of causing Industrial Deafness. A very simple indicator is, whether, in order to conduct a conversation with the person next to you it is necessary to raise your voice to be heard. If it is then that is an indicator that you are

working in an environment capable of causing Industrial Deafness.

The thresholds to make a claim for Industrial Deafness and the benefits available are different for Coal Miners and Non-Coal Miners and we will discuss those matters in the next article. Because of the difference it is important that if you leave the Coal Mining Industry and you think that you may be suffering from Industrial Deafness you have a hearing test and if appropriate make a claim. If you do not do so and obtain work outside the Coal Mining Industry and that work is in an environment capable of causing Industrial Deafness then that Non-Coal Mining employer would potentially become your last noisy employer and any future claim would be against that employer but under the rules that apply to Non-Coal Miners. In some cases it could mean the difference between having a claim and not having a claim.

INDUSTRIAL DEAFNESS CAN BE MODEST BUT CAN ALSO BE SEVERE AND IMPACT UPON THE LIVES OF WORKERS. WHILST COMPENSATION IS AVAILABLE TAKING PRECAUTIONS SUCH AS WARING HEARING PROTECTION IS IMPORTANT AS A MEANS OF AVOIDING OR MINIMISING THE EFFECT.

IN THE NEXT ARTICLE I WILL DISCUSS THE THRESHOLDS TO MAKE A CLAIM, THE BENEFITS AVAILABLE AND SOME OF THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE SCHEME AVAILABLE TO COAL MINERS AS COMPARED TO NON-COAL MINERS.

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BACK TO SINGLETON 2020

BICENTENNIAL EVENTS PROGRAM COMING TOGETHER FOR A COMMEMORATION 200 YEARS IN THE MAKING.

With the countdown on to a whole-of-community commemoration for Singleton's bicentenary in 2020, Mayor of Singleton, Cr Sue Moore said the program for a year of special events was taking shape. Overseen by the Singleton Bicentennial Commemorations Working Group, planning is well in hand for Back to Singleton 2020 to mark the 200 years since the arrival of the European exploration party led by John Howe and including two Aboriginal

guides, Myles and Mullaboy, as well as Benjamin Singleton, who came upon the Hunter River at Whittingham on 15 March 1820.

THE OFFICIAL WEEKEND OF EVENTS WILL START WITH A COMMUNITY STREET PARTY ON FRIDAY 13 MARCH 2020.

It will be followed by a packed program on Saturday 14 March 2020 including a family-friendly festival on the Civic Green and a special evening event in the Civic Centre.

Popular ABC presenter and Singleton son Craig Hamilton will also broadcast live in Singleton on Saturday 14 March 2020.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT BACK TO SINGLETON 2020 VISIT WWW.SINGLETON.NSW.GOV.AU

The official event program will be launched on 25 November 2019, with the goal to reach as many people as possible to invite them to Singleton during 2020.

Cr Moore said community organisations and businesses had responded to expressions of interest to be part of the program, with the community banding together to make Back to Singleton 2020 a success.

"The official program will be launched on 25 November 2019, when people can

start mapping out how they'll join with us to commemorate 200 years of this area we now know as Singleton."

"We're also encouraging people to invite their friends and relatives, old neighbours, old workmates, and old schoolmates to come back to Singleton and be part of the festivities."

"We want to make sure everyone knows Back to Singleton 2020 is an open invitation for anyone to come home, come back or come for an adventure in Singleton."

"WE'RE REALLY PLEASED WITH THE RESPONSE AND THE EXCITEMENT THAT'S ALREADY BUILDING AROUND ALL OF THE EVENTS THAT ARE BEING PLANNED FOR 2020, FROM CONCERTS TO REUNIONS," SHE SAID.

'AVE A LAUGH WITH



BUY ANY TORO MOWER AND YOU COULD WIN THE PRICE OF YOUR MOWER BACK

An old blind cowboy wanders into an all-girl biker bar by mistake... He finds his way to a bar stool and orders a shot of Jack Daniels. After sitting there for a while, he yells to the bartender, 'Hey, you wanna hear a blonde joke?'

The bar immediately falls silent.

In a very deep, husky voice, the woman next to him says, "Before you tell that joke, Cowboy, I think it is only fair, given that you are blind, that you should know five things:

The bartender is a blonde girl

with a baseball bat. The bouncer is a blonde girl with a Taser. I'm a blonde woman with a black belt in karate. The woman sitting next to me is blonde and a professional weightlifter. The lady to your right is blonde and a professional wrestler.

Now, think about it seriously, Cowboy... Do you still wanna tell that blonde joke?"

The blind cowboy thinks for a second, shakes his head and mutters, "No...not if I'm gonna have to explain it five times..."

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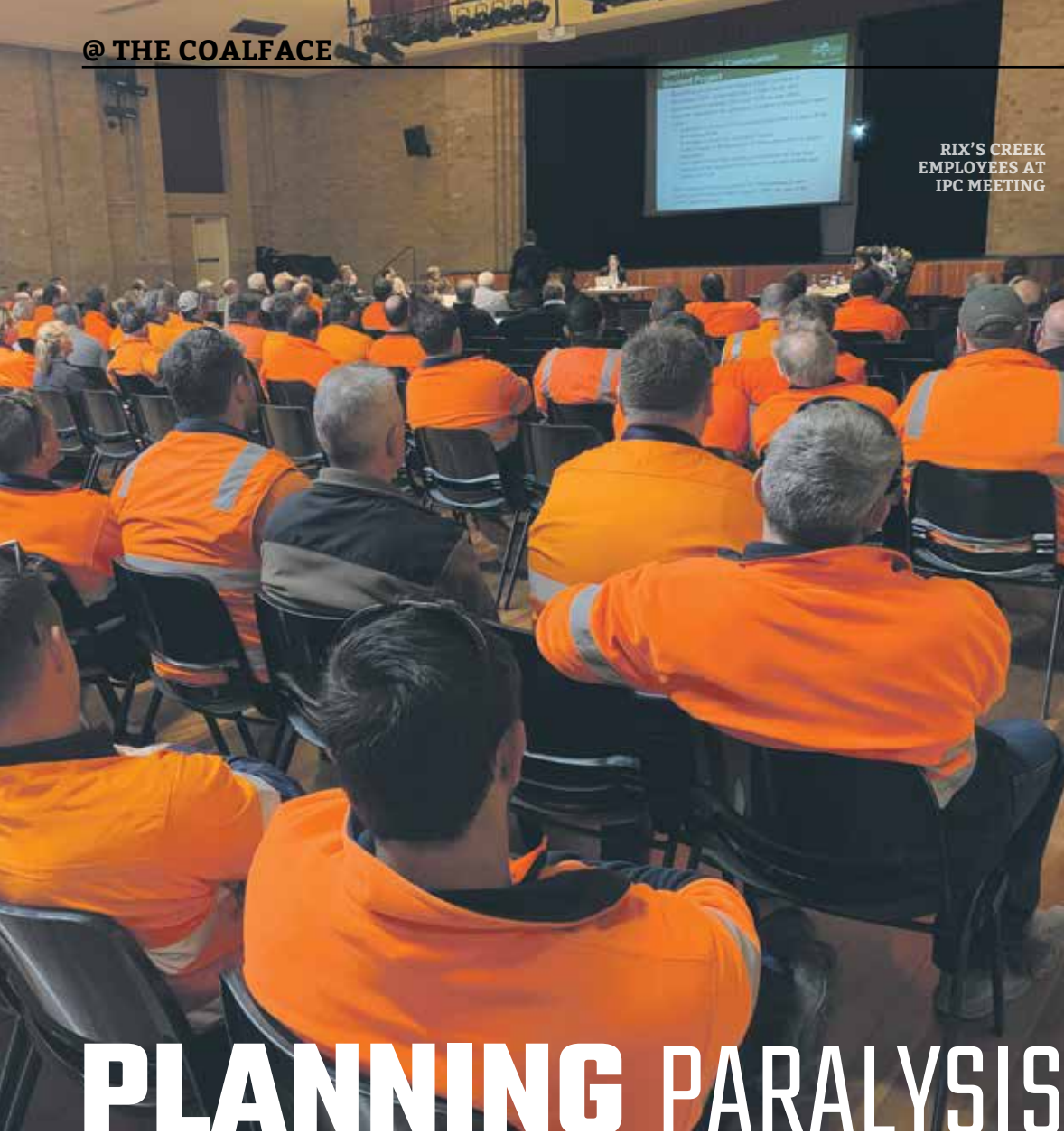
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RIX'S CREEK
EMPLOYEES AT
IPC MEETING

PLANNING PARALYSIS

@ THE COALFACE HAS BEEN CALLING FOR AN OVERHAUL OF THE PLANNING SYSTEM FOR YEARS AND WE'RE NOT ALONE. IN SEPTEMBER, THE NSW MINERALS COUNCIL LAUNCHED A PUBLIC ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN CALLING FOR URGENT CHANGES TO THE SYSTEM. FINALLY, IT LOOKS LIKE ACTION IS BEING TAKEN.

This year the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) has been under the spotlight for some controversial decisions made on Hunter mine projects. Here's a recap of the last few months.

In August we saw the IPC reject the Dartbrook Mine's 5 year extension proposal. The mine was approved to December 2022 and had applied for an additional 5 years, however the IPC found that to not be in the public interest. Refusal of the extension raises questions about whether the mine will go ahead.

Then later in August we saw the IPC approve the United Wambo project – with a Scope 3 emissions condition, a condition where it can only export coal to signatories of the Paris Agreement or countries with similar controls on emissions.

In September, the IPC rejected the KEPCO Bylong Coal Project saying the mine was not in the public interest. This refusal came after more than 7 years of assessment despite strong support from the local community, local MPs, local council, local businesses, and the Department of Planning Infrastructure and Environment which assessed that the project was approvable with conditions.

Then on October 4, the IPC approved the Rix's Creek Continuation Project only to withdraw the consent hours later. It said an "administrative error" had resulted in the invalid determination being issued prior to the deadline for additional information. With 300 jobs on the line it's quite a mistake to make. The approval did end up coming through on October 12, but the mistake had already been made.

AFTER ALL THESE CONTROVERSIAL DECISIONS, THE NSW MINERALS COUNCIL LAUNCHED THEIR AD CAMPAIGN WHICH CALLED FOR URGENT CHANGES TO THE NSW PLANNING SYSTEM TO PROTECT NSW JOBS AND THE ECONOMY.

NSW Minerals Council CEO Stephen Galilee said the decision to initiate the campaign was not taken lightly and came after months of engagement and warnings to the Minister for Planning and others in the government about the risk of the planning system to jobs and investment.

"While the Deputy Premier and others in the NSW Government have shown strong support for mining projects and mining communities, the Planning Minister seems

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oblivious to the damage being done by the crisis in his planning system, especially in the regions. The industry has repeatedly warned the Planning Minister of the risks to the NSW economy and has been reassured that reforms to planning timeframes and processes would be pursued. However, no action has been taken and the problems have only gotten worse," said Mr Galilee.

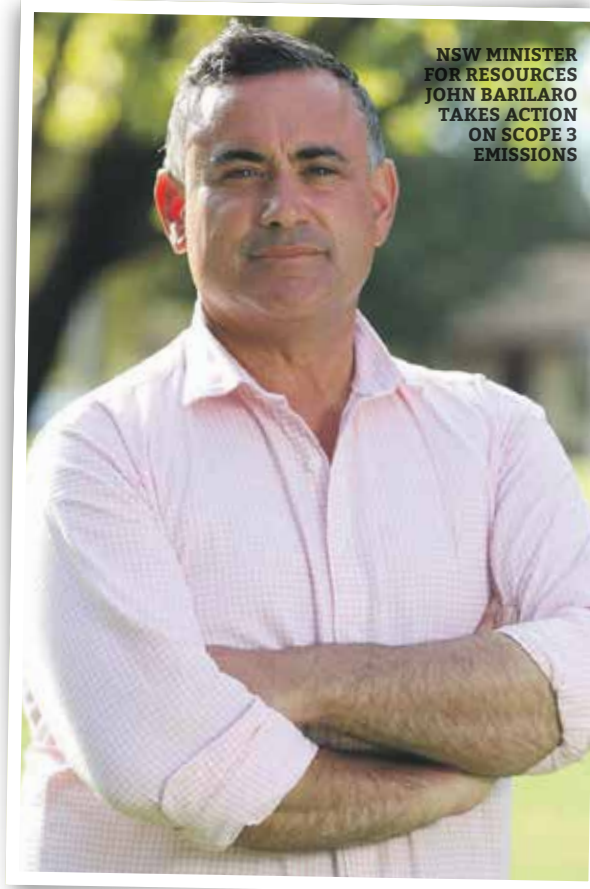
In March 2018 the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) replaced the Planning Assessment Commission (PAC). Its remit was to consider development applications for mining and other major projects in NSW by conducting public hearings on planning and development matters and providing independent advice to the department and minister. The IPC would act as the final determination authority for NSW planning projects.

But as the Minerals Council's campaign pointed out, the NSW Government has repeatedly fast-tracked its own large and controversial projects through the state planning system, bypassing the IPC, while expecting other major projects to endure a lengthy, uncertain and costly assessment process that is costing jobs and investment in NSW.

The NSW Government has not submitted a single one of its own significant infrastructure projects to the long and dysfunctional process that other major projects in NSW have to endure, including the controversial Sydney CBD Light Rail, Sydney Football Stadium, Parramatta Light Rail, and Westconnex projects.

The NSW Government can declare - with virtually no recourse for appeal - projects 'state significant infrastructure' (SSI). This allows the NSW Government projects to bypass the IPC and approval lies with the Minister for Planning. In fact, the IPC plays no role in the determination or assessment of SSI projects. Assessment times for SSI projects are also significantly quicker.

PERHAPS TO DIVERT ATTENTION BACK OFF THIS, THE GOVERNMENT HAS RECENTLY MADE SOME BIG ANNOUNCEMENTS IN THE PLANNING ARENA.



The NSW Planning Minister Rob Stokes recently requested the Productivity Commissioner to conduct a review of the IPC and report back to the Minister by mid-December 2019.

The review will examine, among other things, the operations and processes of the Commission in the State's planning framework and whether it is in the public interest to maintain an IPC.

The government has also taken another step to prevent the regulation of scope 3 greenhouse gas emissions in mining approvals like what we saw in the United Wambo project.

For a coalmine, scope 3 greenhouse gas emissions are largely from the burning of the coal after it is sold into the market, including overseas. It's like selling a car to someone and then being held responsible for the emissions they burn while driving that car. Nations have agreed to take responsibility for national emissions, and it is neither practical nor plausible for a state government agency to determine or manage the responses of other nations.

NSW Minister for Resources John Barilaro said the government will take legislative and other policy action to provide clarity on how 'Scope 3' emissions are treated within the NSW planning assessment system.

This legislation will be highly welcomed as the increasing uncertainty on how 'Scope 3' emissions are treated within the NSW planning assessment system has become a significant barrier to investment in NSW and a real threat to jobs and the economy, particularly in regional NSW.

WHILE ALL THESE ACTIONS ARE WELCOMED, MORE ACTION WILL BE NEEDED TO RESTORE CONFIDENCE IN THE NSW PLANNING SYSTEM. UNCERTAINTY HAS BEEN CAUSED TO A LARGE EXTENT BY THE CURRENT ROLE OF THE IPC AS PART OF THE PLANNING ASSESSMENT PROCESS.

The planning process is inconsistent and difficult to navigate, and makes investment in NSW unattractive. Of course, projects of scale like those in mining should have to pass through a filter that ensures genuine merit, accountability and the correct regulatory framework to be compliant and to be in the public interest. All voices should have a chance to be heard but approval should not be based on ideological views. Most importantly, the system needs to be streamlined so that timeframes are reasonable and do not drag on for years and years.

Let's hope the post review future of planning delivers something of real value, a sensible approach and efficiency.

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Training GROUND

THE HUNTER VALLEY IS RICH IN RAILWAY HERITAGE, AND HUNTER VALLEY MINES COAL RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE MEANS ONE MINE COULD BE A PERFECT LOCATION TO ESTABLISH A SIGNIFICANT WORKING HERITAGE TRACK AND TOURISM DESTINATION.



OVERSEAS THIS IDEA HAS WORKED VERY SUCCESSFULLY.

The British National Railway Museum is the world's largest, and arguably best preserved, collection of train cars and locomotives. That is the sort of scale we should aim for. The museum includes hundreds of locomotives of every sort, spanning more than 300 years of railway history in life-sized glory. On any given day, the cavernous showroom is filled with gleaming, polished cars and locomotives, allowing visitors to see, touch, and climb all over a piece of actual history.

IT ATTRACTS A MILLION VISITORS A YEAR.

The trainyards surrounding the development could provide working demonstrations of locomotives as they were intended to be – chugging, steaming or muscling their way down a pair of iron tracks.

Done properly this wouldn't just be a strange destination for train hobbyists and retirees, but something with the scale, wonder and great experience to attract people far and wide.

The other big opportunity would be for mine rehabilitation and environment teams to display how much value mining companies can bring to the environments and habitats they work within.

Ladies and Gentlemen...Tickets please!

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The Hunter has the terrific Richmond Vale Railway Museum on old mine land showcasing some of The Hunter and coal mining's significant railway heritage. To complement that as opposed to compete with it, let's look at working with them on expanding the regions rail tourism potential.

LET'S BUILD AN INTERNATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT WORKING TRACK AND COAL RAILWAY MUSEUM ON BUFFER LAND THAT CAPITALISES ON A SUITABLE EXISTING MINE RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE.

A polished and well delivered large scale attraction it could incorporate an extended minimum 10 km track for working engines and rolling stock to be seen and experienced. Along the journey we could have purpose built and themed stations at three or four points. Each 'station' could offer a different use or experience.

In Australia there are a few great rail museum examples like the NSW Railway Museum and the National Railway Museum in Adelaide. They are largely situated in urban areas though, and operate without a significant usable and dedicated 'track'. This idea could complement those and Richmond Vale as well.

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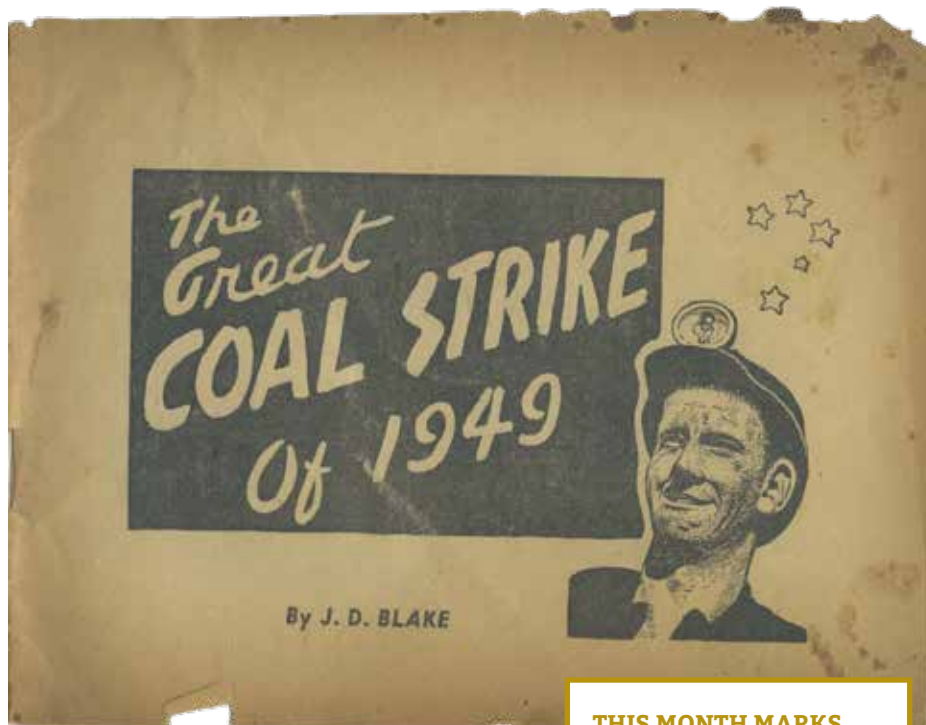
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TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT

THIS MONTH MARKS THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BLACK COAL INDUSTRY'S LONG SERVICE LEAVE, A PROVISION THAT DID NOT COME WITHOUT A FIGHT.

Long Service Leave is a uniquely Australian entitlement that has its origins in our colonial history. In the 19th century, long-serving civil servants would be given an entitlement, referred to as a furlough, to travel home to Britain for a break before returning to Australia. However, it was not until 1949 that it became legislation after the most famous coal strike in Australian history.

At the time, coal miners had serious and genuine industrial and safety concerns. About 25 miners were being killed at work every year. For 2 years they had been demanding better work conditions and fairer pay. Their demands were relatively moderate, such as a 35 hour week, long service leave and a 30 shilling a week pay rise. Their demands were refused.

THE UNION DECIDED TO RETALIATE WITH AN ALL-OUT STRIKE ACTION WHICH WAS LAUNCHED ON JUNE 27 AND SAW 23,000 WORKERS LAY DOWN THEIR TOOLS BETWEEN JUNE 27 AND AUGUST 15 OF THAT YEAR.

The government almost immediately banned collections to support the strikers, passing legislation that made it illegal to give strikers and their families any financial support including credit from shops, though not all shop owners complied. The government also froze union funds, union offices were raided, and union leaders arrested and jailed.

Despite other unions scabbing on the strike and the arrests of their leaders, the miners were defiant, and the strike continued. The government were forced to up the ante by sending in 2,500 troops to work in the open cut mines on August 1. The troops started work on open cut mines at Newcastle, Muswellbrook and Ben Bullen and soon after more troops started work at seven other mines.

THE COMBINATION OF FORCES STACKED UP AGAINST THE MINERS WAS TOO MUCH.

With the troops carrying out their work and the right-wing unions scabbing on the strike they were forced to concede defeat and the miners returned to work with their modest conditions unmet.

Despite its defeat the strike opened the way for long service leave in the coal industry and its subsequent introduction to most other awards. On October 14, 1949 it is officially introduced as a legislative entitlement for black coal workers.



Today, the black coal long service leave entitlement is administered by Coal LSL. It has supported skills retention in what is one of the most significant industries contributing to Australia's economy and its reputation as a world leader in mining.

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A mathematician, a statistician, and an accountant are all up for the same job.

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The statistician replies, "300, with 100% certainty."

The accountant says in a hushed voice, "What do you want it to be?"

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BOSS



WHEN HE'S NOT HARD AT WORK AS BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER FOR AUSTRALIA'S LEADING HEAVY EARTHMOVING EQUIPMENT RENTAL PROVIDER EMECO GROUP, RYAN FINN IS ON SITE DECONSTRUCTING OUR INDUSTRY LEADERS. THIS MONTH RYAN CHATTED WITH YANCOAL'S JASON MCCALLUM.

JASON IS GENERAL MANAGER OF YANCOAL'S MOUNT THORLEY WARKWORTH MINE, WHICH RECENTLY EXPERIENCED RECORD PRODUCTION, SALES AND RAILINGS UNDER HIS MANAGEMENT, CONTRIBUTING TO YANCOAL'S 2018 RECORD COMPANY PROFIT.

Jason has enjoyed a career spanning over 30 years and has held executive roles in draglines, drill and blast, technical services and project and mine management. However, he started from humble beginnings as a push bike mechanic. He still loves his wheels and boasts an impressive motorbike collection massed over many years consisting of Harley Davidson's, Honda's Yamaha's, Ducati's, and BMW's.

Jason's ideology around leadership revolves around safety, culture, productivity, effective communication strategies and ensuring all stakeholders are kept informed of the company's goals and strategies.

Jason shared some great information with us, but his key advice was that to run a successful business you need to take care of the people within the business.

FROM FIRST JOB TO NOW

Jason's first job was as a push bike mechanic in Central Queensland at 13. He got the gig after negotiating a deal with the local bike shop that would allow him to purchase some parts for his push bike and work in the shop as payment. This deal eventually evolved into a three-year job supporting Jason whilst at school and allowing him to follow his passion of bike riding.

Jason's first roles in the mining industry were at Peak Down's mine, firstly starting with Utah Development Company, BHP, BHP Billiton, and then onto BMA. These roles have allowed him to be involved across a variety of on-and-off site departments and to lay a solid foundation in technical knowledge and information sharing.

Education is important to Jason and over the years he's amassed many credentials including a Diploma in Leadership, SSE Qualifications, Mine Manager Qualifications, Board of Directors Qualifications and is currently studying to complete his MBA. Apart from formal qualifications, Jason believes that being able to communicate a clear vision to employees of their future, along with the roles that they play in success, wins every time.

A TYPICAL WORKDAY

Jason's day starts the night before when he sets everything out before going to bed. Jason is then up at 5am, checks the daily safety, cost and production statistics while having breakfast and is in the car on the way to work by 5.25am. He will phone ahead and talk to the safety or production manager prior to arriving onsite. Once onsite, Jason makes a coffee and takes a stroll around the office and catches up with an array of people in the business. Jason then attends the daily production meeting at 10.30am, the daily safety meeting at 11am, followed by some time in the mining operation or leadership discussions, and at the back end of the day there are reports to complete and management activities. Jason takes some time for himself on the drive home from work and uses this time to relax and believes this is important to maintain a healthy work life balance.

CHANGES AND CHALLENGES AHEAD

Jason does not believe that a significant downturn for the coal industry is on the horizon and that the sizeable peaks and troughs are behind us. But he does believe that we are heading for a depreciated coal price over the next few years and notes that this is backed up by the latest market trend research and reports. As a result of the declining

coal prices, it will be important to reduce operating costs so that when the coal price is at its lowest a sustainable and profitable business can be maintained. Jason states that all of the Hunter Valley mine sites have increased pressure to be good corporate citizens and that meeting noise, light and dust compliance levels will continue to be a challenge for all mine sites in the future.

BUILDING CONNECTIONS

Jason expressed that as a result of his job he has the opportunity to meet an extensive amount of people at different stages in their lives, ranging from a new trainee/apprentice, to a professional taking their first step into a leadership role, to someone finishing their career. To be able to help shape these people's journey in a small way is the best part about his job. Jason also enjoys wearing the mentor hat, as he has had the opportunity to be mentored throughout his career and still enlists the guidance of a coach.

KEYS TO SUCCESS

Jason states that when you're a bit younger and a bit less measured you believe that you have all of the answers and make decisions without consulting all

key stakeholders and this can lead to failure. Now that he is a bit older and wiser, Jason ensures that he gains the buy in from all key stakeholders on big decisions and considers their opinions prior to taking action. As a result of this habit, Jason believes that he now makes more informed and sound decisions.



WHAT'S NEXT FOR JASON MCCALLUM?

Jason is currently working on a three-year plan to improve the three key pillars of a mine - safety, production and cost - whilst underpinning this by strengthening its foundations (culture), because as Jason expressed, "Only when you have a robust, productive and valued culture will your results become sustainable."



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The Bloomfield Group is hiring



The Independent Planning Commission (IPC) has approved the Rix's Creek South Continuation Project.

The IPC approval clears the way for operations at Rix's Creek South Coal Mine to continue for another 21 years.

Hundreds of local jobs have been secured, and a range of opportunities are now available across the group that will help deliver this vital project. Some of these jobs include:

- ▶ Mechanical Project Engineer
- ▶ Statutory Mechanical Engineer
- ▶ Reliability Engineer
- ▶ Geotechnical Engineer
- ▶ Supervising Shotfirer
- ▶ Open Cut Examiner
- ▶ Multi-skilled Operators
- ▶ Trades – Fitters, Electricians, Boilermakers and Machinists.

Working with Bloomfield

Underpinning how we go about our work are our company values: **WE CARE. WE DELIVER.**

- ▶ We respect and care about the safety and wellbeing of our people, our local community and the environment.
- ▶ We work together with integrity to deliver safety, operational best practice, customer satisfaction and compliance.

All open positions require individuals aligned to Bloomfield's values.

If you share our values we invite you to apply by visiting Seek or bloomcoll.com.au



RIX'S CREEK CONTINUATION OF MINING – KEY FACTS

- ▶ Rix's Creek South operations will progress in a westward direction away from Singleton, with land being backfilled and remediated as has happened since the mine started in 1990.
- ▶ It will be very much business as usual at the site.
- ▶ The continuation was always intended when mining started 30 years ago. It will allow a logical extension of the existing operation, recovering additional coal resources and allowing for a systematic sequence to provide a long term stable final land use.

If you have any questions about the Project or require further information please contact:

- Chris Knight, Environmental Manager, on 0403 058 777 or cknight@bloomcoll.com.au
- Geoff Moore, Chief Development Officer, on 0407 490 944 or gmoore@bloomcoll.com.au

About Bloomfield

The Bloomfield Group is a proud and successful mining and engineering group.

The only 100% locally owned coal miner in the Hunter Valley, Bloomfield has been part of the local community for more than 80 years and employs more than 600 local people. It operates two open-cut coal mines - Rix's Creek Coal Mine northwest of Singleton and Bloomfield Coal Mine east of Maitland.



THE
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JET SKI FOR VARIETY

ALEX NOGAROTTO IS AN OPERATOR AT MOUNT PLEASANT AND IS NOW PARTICIPATING IN HIS 3RD VARIETY JET TREK RAISING FUNDS FOR KIDS WHO ARE SICK, DISADVANTAGED OR WHO HAVE SPECIAL NEEDS.

Alex Nogarotto has been living in the Hunter Valley for almost 5 years working in the mining industry. Starting at Mount Thorley Warkworth for around 3 and a half years, Alex now enjoys his time with Thiess at Mount Pleasant.

When he's not at work, he's preparing and raising money for his yearly Jet Trek to raise money for an important and vital charity, Variety. Stumbling across a highlight video on Facebook from the 2017 ride, Alex has now participated in the event for the past 2 years with his next ride in

March 2020 marking his 3rd. Each rider needs to raise a minimum amount of \$2,500 to be eligible to ride in the event, and for such a good cause, riders are striving to raise as much as possible.

THE EVENT HAS BEEN RUNNING FOR 21 YEARS WITH THIS YEAR BEING THE EVENTS BIGGEST YET WITH 100 RIDERS, 300 PEOPLE IN TOTAL INCLUDING THE CAR CREWS, PARTICIPATING IN 2019. OVER ITS LIFETIME THE EVENT HAS RAISED AROUND \$2.1 MILLION.

The social ride is a week-long event with 5 riding days and stops along the way. The 2020 event will see participants ride from Coffs Harbour to the Sunshine Coast.

At each stop, Variety gives a grant to a local school or organisation that works with sick, disadvantaged and special needs kids. "This year at our Newcastle stop being our hometown Variety got me and another mate from Pirtek up on stage to present the grant which was terrifying because I hate public speaking," Alex laughed.

You can support Alex's cause by donating at

HTTPS://WWW.VARIETYJETTREKAUTUMN.COM.AU/ALEXNOGAROTTO

"But it's worth putting myself out of my comfort zone for such a great cause and Variety gave the grant to the Newcastle PCYC Kinder Gym program."

Alex said the ride is exhausting and struggled a lot in his first year, but now working with a personal trainer the ride is a lot easier. The amazing scenery and action-packed adventure side of the ride makes it a bit easier as well.

"YOU GET TO HELP THESE KIDS AND SEE AND MEET THEM ALONG THE WAY, YOU SEE WHERE THE MONEY GOES WHICH IS REALLY GOOD," SAID ALEX.

"Sometimes you will be in a room of 300 people and majority of the riders are guys, so you'll have 90 guys there welling at the eyes."

The event is a fantastic way to raise money for an important cause and have a blast at the same time. Good on you Alex for putting your body on the line!

WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

Every day, Variety receives requests for assistance from families who are doing it tough. The money you raise through the Yamaha Variety Jet Trek will directly help children who are sick, disadvantaged and who have special needs by way of

goods and services.

In the last year, we've been able to provide over \$1.2 million in grants of equipment, services and scholarships throughout Queensland and interstate thanks to your fundraising. Every dollar you raise is used immediately to help Aussie kids have a fair go.

- Every \$1,000 you raise can help a child who is non-verbal to communicate with iPad assistive software.
- Every \$5,000 you raise can help a disadvantaged child follow their dreams with a scholarship in the arts, sport or education.

- Every \$10,000 you raise can provide wheelchair accessible vehicle modifications to help safely transport a child with special needs in their family car.

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Woodwork WHIZ

JOEL CARROLL IS A SITE MANAGER WITH UGM AT WAMBO BY DAY AND A WOODWORKING MASTER, LOVING FATHER AND HUSBAND BY NIGHT AND HE'S ABSOLUTELY LOVING IT.



Joel Carroll has been working full time in the underground mining sector at Wambo for the past 10 years, following in his father's footsteps who was a long-term employee at Wambo mine site.

Born and raised in the Hunter Valley Joel used to head on site with his dad every now and then as a child, leading him to Emerald's Kestrel Mine as a contractor where he met his wife Sarah 13 years ago.

Soon after the couple were married, they moved to Cessnock where they live with their 9-year-old daughter Lilah. Now supplying his products wholesale to 13 stores, including Sarah's gift and homewares shop Fetch in Pokolbin, Joel started by making timber boards, bowls, vases and furniture to sell in his wife's shop.

"AFTER FINISHING OUR FIRST RENOVATION ON A HOUSE AT MILLFIELD, THE BANK WAS LOOKING A BIT WORSE FOR WEAR AND WE WERE IN A BIT OF A STRUGGLE TO FILL IT WITH FURNITURE (AS MOST RENOVATORS WOULD KNOW) SO WHEN IT CAME TO FINDING A DINING TABLE, I JUST DECIDED I WOULD MAKE OUR OWN TABLE FROM RECYCLED TIMBER WE'D PULLED FROM THE HOUSE," SAID JOEL.

Joel has since been creating things to sell for the past 5 years, with hopes of continuing to build his timber business into something that he can one day call a fulltime job. "Working a (dayshift) five-day week and building the timber business has its challenges, especially when trying to squeeze in some family time along the way, but we seem to make it work," Joel said.

THE HARDWORKING MINER SAYS THAT LIKING WHAT YOU DO IS THE KEY TO MAKING IT WORK, USING HIS WOODWORKING BUSINESS AS A RELAXATION OUTLET AFTER A STRESSFUL DAY. "AS MY WOODWORK IS GETTING MORE AND MORE IN DEMAND IT IS GETTING HARDER AND HARDER TO JUGGLE THE WORKLOAD," SAID JOEL.

Even with his busy schedule, Joel ensures he always makes time to spend with his family and finding a balance between his mining and woodworking interests.

IF YOU'D LIKE TO PURCHASE ONE OF JOEL'S FINE DESIGNS, HEAD ON OVER TO FETCH IN POKOLBIN AND HAVE A CHAT TO HIS LOVELY WIFE SARAH.



AND DON'T FORGET TO CHECK OUT HIS INSTAGRAM WHICH FEATURES ALL HIS BEST WORKS @AT_THE_LUMBERJACK_



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SUPPLIER INSIDER

Who are you and what do you do?

I'm Graham Sutton. Business Development Manager at Morgan Engineering.

Where did you start and how did you end up where you are now?

Started with Delta Electricity on the Central Coast as an apprentice Fitter & Machinist, then Engineering with a Super Yacht builder, moving into Materials Handling, and finally the Mining Industry in 2011. Having a diverse background, enables unique understanding of solutions, providing value to our clients.

Describe a typical day at 'The office'.

Being with Morgan Engineering under a month means getting up to speed on our capabilities, structure, people and most of all, the needs of our clients. Moving forward, maximise time on site to ensure value is being delivered, and understand the industries evolving needs.

What's the best thing about your business?

Although no longer what is considered a small engineering company, we have been able to maintain the flexibility and agility

to think outside the box for solutions to deliver as needed for our clients. We also have built extensive capabilities to provide complete inhouse solutions to maintain maximum quality.

What is the big news in your part of the mining industry right now?

The Hunter Valley mining industry is at the forefront of environmental scrutiny. Concerns of air quality affecting neighboring properties and the horse industry, farming, and climate change, have all seen expansions and projects delayed or not approved. This has seen uncertainty for suppliers and small business within the region.

What is the biggest opportunity for your business right now?

Commencement of a large expansion of our facility, to be completed in 2020. Not only does it further expand our capabilities, but significantly reduces lead time/down time for our clients, removing the outsourcing of critical specialized tasks. The introduction of our Soraluec FP-6000 multi-purpose milling and boring machine in our existing machine shop has shown commitment to meet

client needs immediately with great results.

What are the biggest challenges facing your business?

Ensuring continuous improvement throughout all aspects of our business. It includes process, design, capability and safety. It's ensuring we deliver ongoing quality and value to our clients. Meeting their needs in a timely manner. As an example, we have just introduced shift change out vehicles for our site Line Boring crews to further reduce downtime and cost.

How long have you been doing business and business in the Valley?

Morgan Engineering have been a family owned business servicing the Hunter Valley since its establishment in 1975.

Community or other causes close to its heart and values?

Through the ongoing long-term support of our clients, Morgan Engineering is proud to be in a position to pass that support onto various local clubs, charities and events. We are also focusing on the

important issue of Mental Health Awareness through programs such as RUOK day.

How big is the crew in the Hunter Valley?

We currently have 42 team members.

What's the best thing about your job?

Not bound to the office. Always meeting new clients. And being able to provide value to the team.

The worst thing?

Sitting in Singleton traffic twice a day.

What's a funny story about work that you can tell?

A few years ago now. Santiago, Chile. Could not speak Spanish. Thought I would do the 10 minute walk to the office from the hotel. One wrong turn, two and a half hours later, walked in with the complete sole missing from one of my shoes. What a way to see the city.

Anything else you want to say?

Visit our social media pages. Great stories, updates, and news from around the grounds.



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Authorised by Tania Constable, Minerals Council of Australia, 44 Sydney Avenue, Forrest, ACT, 2603.

www.minerals.org.au



MY MINING LIFE

Sean Barry

A GREAT WORKING ENVIRONMENT AND CLOSE FRIENDSHIPS IS WHAT GETS UNDERGROUND MINER SEAN BARRY OUT OF BED EVERY MORNING.

Who are you and what do you do?

My name is Sean Barry and I am an Operator for Glencore at Integra Underground in Singleton.

Any nicknames good or bad?

ShazBaz, BamBam, and Turtle. I get ShazBaz simply because my name is Sean Barry, just a typical nickname I guess. And I get BamBam sometimes because of something that I will keep a secret haha.

Where do you live and how long have you been in the Valley?

I currently live at Georgetown in Newcastle, but up until early 2018 I lived my whole life in Singleton.

When did you start and what's the ride been like?

I first started in the industry in March 2011. Over the course of the last 8 years I've had employment with many different companies with many different hours. During the worst part of the mining downturn I only worked 2 days a week at a mine on care and maintenance, but nowadays I work full time 4 nights a week.

What's a usual day at work entail?

We turn up, get changed into our work clothes, put on our boots, belt

and hard hat. Then we go get our self-rescuer and cap lamp, put our tag on the underground tag board and sign the sign on sheet. We then have a prestart meeting and go down underground to the panel. Our deputy will talk about any toolbox talks and tell us what we're doing that shift and assign jobs. Usually I'll end up on the continuous miner doing roof and rib bolting to support the heading until crib and then after crib again, and then out.

How big is the crew?

Our crew is comprised of 1 deputy, 1 electrical and 1 mechanical trade, a trainee operator and 4 experienced operators.

What's the best thing about your job?

The best thing about the job is the mateship. I mean, I've done a little bit of time in the open cut doing a dump truck traineeship, but underground is definitely where I belong. But yeah in underground mining there's definitely strong bonds. We have each other's backs if the shit hits the fan.

The worst thing?

The worst thing is the heat in the panel.



What's a funny story about work that you can tell?

I fell over the other night (I was perfectly fine) and I was on soft ground that kept sinking under me so I couldn't get up...for the next few nights the boys called me Turtle.

How different is your job to what you wanted to be when you were a kid?

Growing up I wanted to be many different things including a farmer, a lawyer, a policeman and more. So, I would say things turned out pretty different.

What would your mum say about you when you were a kid?

Maybe that I was going to be a heartbreaker or something haha.

Family?

I only have myself, my mother and my father in my immediate family.

What do you do in your downtime?

In my downtime I hit the gym, catch up with mates and go out in Newcastle.

What is one thing about that you that would surprise people to know?

I'm very open and honest and have nothing to hide. My favourite colour is purple, if I could be any wild animal I'd be a tiger, my favourite public holiday is Australia Day, if I won big on lotto I'd dedicate some of the money towards "saving the bees" and making my own honey and I've owned 4 Mazda's since my first car.



HUNTER VALLEY MINING CHARITY RUGBY LEAGUE KNOCKOUT COMPETITION



WAMBO WOLVES and VALLEY VIXENS CROWNED 2019 CHAMPIONS

To our local miners, event partners, team sponsors and our volunteers thank you for making this years event the biggest to date.

Over \$100,000 has been raised this year's for the community's own Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service.



IT'S THAT HAIRY TIME OF YEAR AGAIN WITH PROGRAMMED GETTING INVOLVED IN MOVEMBER, RAISING AWARENESS FOR MEN'S HEALTH ISSUES ONE MO AND 1KM AT A TIME.

Since its birth in 2003, Movember has been tackling prostate cancer, testicular cancer, mental health and suicide prevention with the aim of reducing the number of men dying prematurely by 25% by 2030.

With over 800 employees currently in the field, Programmed are jumping on board again this year in hopes of raising money for the important cause. Issues around mental health are prevalent in the industry and Programmed Customer Delivery Manager, Joel Cribb says they are doing all they can to support not only their workforce but also all males within the business.

"Our guys deal with day to day issues - I think 1 in 3 phone calls at the moment that our team get

are around some sort of personal issue of mental health," said Joel.

With 9 males out of the Singleton branch growing mo's, 11 females doing the Move for Movember challenge walking 100km's and 8 people from the industrial maintenance team out of Muswellbrook getting involved, the Programmed workforce are passionately coming together to show their support for their mates. It's great to see organisations like this band together for the males of our industry.

"OUR CEO NICK FAIRBANK HAS GOT ON BOARD AND DONATED \$500 UPFRONT AND FOR EVERY DOLLAR RAISED FOR THE INDUSTRIAL MAINTENANCE TEAM THEY ARE GOING TO CHIP IN A DOLLAR UP TO \$500 AS WELL," SAID JOEL.

There's lots of ways to get involved in Movember, meaning you don't have to lose that beloved moustache if you can't bear the thought. You can of course grow a mo to save a bro, move 60kms for the 60 men lost to suicide each year or host a get-together and raise much needed funds for men's health. There's a way for everyone to get involved.

With men dying on average 6 years earlier than women according to Movember research, I encourage everyone to get involved in some way this November 1 until November 30.

Take a good look at our before photo of the Programmed team looking clean and tidy, because come November there's sure to be some interesting styles. "No doubt it will be a laugh, there's some individuals in this business that haven't been clean shaven in 25 years," said Joel.

"Dean has been with us for about 6 years now and hasn't been clean shaven - his daughter is about 18-19 and she has never seen him clean shaven until now," Joel added with a laugh.

JUMP ON BOARD AND SUPPORT THE PROGRAMMED TEAM'S GREAT INITIATIVE BY DONATING AT THEIR MOVEMBER LINK.
[HTTPS://MOTTEAM.CO/MOGRAMMED?MC=1](https://moteam.co/mogrammed?mc=1)

SUPER SANTA Celebration

MAKE SURE YOU SAVE THE DATE FOR THIS YEAR'S GLENCORE UPPER HUNTER CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR ON SATURDAY DECEMBER 14TH.

This free live concert event is headlined by Damien Leith and features plenty of local singers and dancers performing all your favourite Christmas carols.

Pre-show entertainment kicks off from 4pm at the Muswellbrook Showground. This year's new venue has plenty of parking and easy access.

The Christmas Spectacular will play host to plenty of activities for the kids with a free petting zoo, face-painting and a jumping castle. You'll also be able to have your photo taken with Santa.

Take a break from the singing and browse through local market stalls. You won't be going hungry either with plenty of food available for purchase or bring along your own picnic with your family and friends. But leave the booze at home as this is an alcohol-free event.

For the first time ever, the Christmas Spectacular will now have a fireworks display as part of the celebrations thanks to Keldan Group. The fireworks are scheduled for after 9pm.

Come along and not only will you have a great time; you'll also be supporting the Muswellbrook PCYC Food and Toy Appeal. Don't forget your blanket, sunscreen and insect repellent!



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BHP INVESTS IN COMMUNITY KITCHEN

BHP'S LOCAL BUYING FOUNDATION HAS JOINED FORCES TO HELP FUND AND ASSIST WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SINGLETON COMMUNITY TRAINING KITCHEN.

The BHP Local Buying Foundation has partnered with Singleton Business Chamber, Singleton Shire Council and Singleton High School with funding of \$15,000 for the important project.

This funding provides huge opportunities for both VET Hospitality students at Singleton High School and the wider community. With a huge focus on improving the opportunities for our local youth, students are able to use the facilities to complete their required practical hours to complete their course.

"These students are required to complete 70 hours each over the course of their training

which is often difficult for them to complete within the Singleton Shire," said Singleton Business Chamber President Sue Gilroy.

The project includes a café to be located at the Singleton Civic Centre, providing catering for community events and training programs.

FOUNDATION CHAIRPERSON DEIRDRA TINDALE SAID AT THE HEART OF THE FOUNDATION'S VALUES WAS A COMMITMENT TO STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY AND CAPABILITIES OF SMALL TO MEDIUM BUSINESSES IN THE REGIONS IT OPERATED - NAMELY, THE MT

resource projects and sponsor events possible. Initiated by BHP, the program helps small to medium businesses more easily and directly connect with the Mt Arthur Coal operation.

The Singleton Community Training Kitchen program supported by BHP is sure to provide continued opportunities for the youth and wider community of Singleton.

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COMMUNITY GIFT

NICE TOUCH

THIS MONTH THE COMPLETE PARTS AND @ THE COALFACE'S \$500 COMMUNITY GIFT GOES TO THE SINGLETON SENIOR TOUCH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION.

After a few years in hiatus, the Singleton Senior Touch Football competition is back in business with the Summer competition now underway on Monday nights. This local competition is a great way to have fun and stay fit for touch footy fans.

Singleton Senior Touch

said that although no more teams can enter the Summer competition it's not too late for players to join one of the existing teams.

"If anyone is interested in playing, we will try to find them a team to join. We will also be running a Winter competition due to start in March/April next

For more information visit their Facebook page - Singleton Senior Touch Football Association or email them at singleton.touch@yahoo.com

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Downer is the leading provider of integrated services in Australia and New Zealand. Through trusted relationships and world leading insight we work closely with our customers to design, build and sustain assets, infrastructure and facilities.

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TYRE TECHNICIANS

- Preferably a minimum of 2 years of Earthmover tyre fitting experience on mine sites
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- A valid and current Drivers Licence
- A current WorkSafe forklift (HR) licence
- Ability to undergo a National Police Check
- Possess a high level of initiative and the ability to work well under pressure
- An understanding that safety is paramount, with a high attention to detail to abide by site safety procedures

For further questions please contact Michael Bernard E: Michael.Bernard@downergroup.com

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INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP PREPARES INMATES FOR LIFE AFTER PRISON

THIESS, A MEMBER OF CIMIC GROUP, IS WORKING WITH CORRECTIVE SERVICES INDUSTRIES (CSI) TO PREPARE INMATES AT ST HELIERS CORRECTIONAL CENTRE FOR LIFE BEYOND THEIR SENTENCE.

Thiess engaged CSI at the local correctional centre to deliver bespoke, refurbished buildings at Thiess' Hunter Valley operations through its St Heliers Gundi Program. The Gundi program was designed to build trade skills and employment prospects for Aboriginal inmates that contribute to a reduction in adult reoffending in the local community.

OVER 45 INMATES FROM THE GUNDI PROGRAM PARTICIPATED IN THE PROJECT, HELPING THEM TO DEVELOP RELEVANT WORK SKILLS AND TRADE QUALIFICATIONS AND CAPABILITY TO BECOME FINANCIALLY INDEPENDENT UPON RELEASE.

"From the outset the tangible benefits for inmates and for us was clear. The inmates developed employability skills and qualifications while delivering high-quality customised products," said Thiess Operations Manager NSW Heather Parry.

During the installation phase of the project, Thiess engaged local Indigenous businesses Blackrock Industries and Bodycote Constructions.

"This project is an example of our commitment to community participation and an inclusive culture," Social Performance Manager Anthea Craig said.

"It's developed the employability, skills and qualifications of inmates and delivered quality customised products for Thiess."

"These are tangible outcomes that demonstrate our commitment to create meaningful relationships that deliver long-term sustainable benefits in the communities we live and work in."



NEW UNVEILING: THE CRIB HUTS WERE MANUFACTURED OVER A THREE-MONTH PERIOD AT ST HELIERS CORRECTIONAL CENTRE UTILISING INDIGENOUS INMATES THROUGH THE GUNDI PROGRAM, WHICH INCORPORATES VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR INMATES, WITH THE FINAL INSTALLATION UNDERTAKEN BY BLACKROCK INDUSTRIES.



OPERATIONS MANAGER NSW, HEATHER PARRY, ENVIRONMENTAL SUPERINTENDENT, PETER YORK, & CONTRACTS ADMINISTRATION, BEC GALLAGHER

THIESS WAS RECENTLY NAMED A FINALIST AT THE 2019 AUSTRALIAN MINING PROSPECT AWARDS FOR ITS COMMITMENT TO BUILDING SKILLS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR ST HELIERS INMATES IN THE HUNTER VALLEY.

Thiess has been actively working with the Hunter region community for more than 25 years spanning from social investment, school-based traineeships, apprenticeships, local recruitment and procurement and participation in community-led initiatives and events.

The mining industry can play a large role in achieving sustainable economic and social progress. Thiess are doing so by giving people a second chance at life and pushing for a bright future of opportunity and growth.

A HOLE LOT OF MONEY

GLENCORE'S RAVENSWORTH MINE HAS RAISED AN INCREDIBLE \$85,000 FOR THE HUNTER PROSTATE CANCER SUPPORT GROUP AT THEIR INAUGURAL CHARITY GOLF EVENT.

Over 2 days in October, more than 200 Ravensworth employees, contractors and suppliers headed to Cypress Lakes Golf Club to hit some sticks for a great cause.

Ravensworth Operation Manager Tony Israel said the event had a dual purpose. Not only was it a way for the workforce and suppliers to be able to mix together in a social environment and boost morale and comradery, but it was about raising money for a worthy charity.

"The Hunter Prostate Cancer Support Group are affiliated with the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia but offer support here on a local level which was important to us. With a predominately male workforce we have a greater risk of being affected by prostate cancer, in fact we have an employee here today struggling with the disease," said Tony.

TO HELP RAISE AWARENESS, MEMBERS FROM THE HUNTER PROSTATE CANCER SUPPORT GROUP INCLUDING PROSTATE CANCER SURVIVORS AND NURSES, CAME ALONG ON BOTH DAYS. MIKE SEDDON FROM THE HUNTER PROSTATE CANCER SUPPORT GROUP SAID THEY WELCOMED THE CHANCE TO SPEAK TO ATTENDEES.

"It's vitally important to raise awareness. There are about 800 men diagnosed every year in this region. Most of them don't even know where their prostate is let alone getting regular screening, so educating them is so important. We also want to let them know there are groups like us there to support them."

"We are so thankful to Tony and his entire team at Ravensworth, as well as all the sponsors. We don't

get a great deal of fundraising, so this is going to have a huge impact. For some time we've been wanting to produce a documentary on prostate cancer to raise awareness in our region and this will allow us to do that."

The inaugural event was a resounding success which Tony attributes to the hardworking team that put it together and every single person who was involved.

"We are so pleased with how much money we raised. We had 29 companies help with sponsorship, donations, raffles, auctions and prizes and I want to thank them all. Special mention has to go to our Platinum Sponsor Tefol and our Gold Sponsors MMS Engineering and Parker," said Tony.



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Mines Rescue

*NSW Mines Rescue is approved by the NSW Resources Regulator to deliver Learning from Disasters one-day program. Approved Training Provider number 0003650.



FEELING STRESSED?

WITH THE HECTIC LIVES WE LEAD IT'S NO WONDER THAT MOST OF US ADMIT TO FEELING STRESSED. A LITTLE STRESS CAN EVEN BE GOOD FOR YOU. BUT HOW DO YOU DEAL WITH TOO MUCH STRESS?

Stress is the natural human response to dangerous situations. It's when the 'fight or flight' response is triggered and the body responds by releasing hormones such as adrenaline and cortisol causing heart rate, metabolism and breathing rate to speed up. When this happens on smaller levels, it can result in increased alertness, energy and productivity. It helps you feel alive and motivated, which is fine in the short term. It's when stress goes on for long periods that it can begin to damage your body and your mind leading to physical and mental health issues. Whether stress is caused from a major event in your life, you're suffering from routine stress because of relationships or finances, or any other traumatic cause, there are some simple and effective ways to help manage your stress and live a healthier and happier life.

GET MOVING – Have a swim at the beach, go for a walk, take the bike for a spin, try a boot camp. Regular exercise can relieve tension and reduce anxiety as it triggers a chemical response that releases positive feelings. And exercising in the beautiful outdoors is like taking a double shot of stress relief.

TAKE A BREATH – Whether it's deep breathing, meditation or muscle relaxation exercises, taking even a minute to focus on your breathing, body and mind will reduce your stress.

MEET A MATE – Spend time with those you love. You might want to go to a movie or have a nice meal and forget your worries, or you might want to talk it out with someone who cares.

SNEAK IN A SNOOZE – Make sure you are getting enough sleep and the sleep you are taking is leaving you well rested. Aim for 7 hours a day, in a dark and quiet room and if you need to, take a nap throughout the day.

DIGITAL DETOX – When you get home from work, shut down your devices. Have a break from social media for a few days a week. Constant connectivity can contribute to stress so taking a break can soothe those worries as well as give you the opportunity to focus more on in person interactions.

MELLOW TO MUSIC – Listening to moving music causes the brain to release dopamine, a feel-good chemical that helps with motivation as it triggers feelings of pleasure and satisfaction. If nothing is working and you're still feeling stressed it's time to seek out professional help. Visit your GP for a general health check, consider seeing a counsellor, or call a helpline.

PHYSICALS SYMPTOMS

- Headaches
- Aches and pains
- Sleep disturbance
- Fatigue
- Upset stomach
- High blood pressure
- Weakened immune system
- Muscle tension
- Change in sex drive

MENTAL SYMPTOMS

- Anxiety
- Anger
- Irritability
- Depression
- Feeling overwhelmed
- Feeling moody
- Difficulty concentrating
- Low self-esteem

FEELING ANY OF THE SYMPTOMS? CALL LIFELINE ON 13 11 14.

SAFETY @ THE COALFACE

SAFETY SUPERSTARS

THE ANGLO-AMERICAN TEAM FROM GROSVENOR ARE THE WINNERS OF THE 2019 AUSTRALIAN UNDERGROUND MINES RESCUE COMPETITION.

Mines rescue brigades from across NSW and Qld descended upon the Moolarben mining district to compete in the 57th annual Australian Underground Coal Mines Rescue competition on October 17. Grosvenor were named the 2019 Australian Underground Mines Rescue champions with the win breaking the winning streak held by NSW teams since 2015. The Kestrel team were runners-up, followed by Moranbah North who took out third place.

The annual event sees the top mines rescue brigades vie for the national title. Teams qualified for the event after winning regional events earlier in the year across NSW and Qld. Queensland Mines Rescue Chief Executive Officer David Carey said hosting an event of this nature takes months of planning to identify the successes and improvement opportunities presented in previous events and to develop scenarios. "Congratulations to the winning teams, as well as to Yancoal's Moolarben mine, the organising committee, QMRS support personnel and NSW Mines Rescue for their efforts in planning and bringing this

all together," he said. **"THIS TRULY IS AN IMPORTANT EVENT FOR THE AUSTRALIAN UNDERGROUND COAL MINING INDUSTRY. IT BRINGS TOGETHER THE BEST MINES RESCUE TEAMS FROM AUSTRALIAN UNDERGROUND COAL MINES TO COMPETE AND DEMONSTRATE THEIR SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE. AT THE END OF THE DAY WE CELEBRATE THE SUCCESS OF THE BEST TEAM ON THE DAY BUT IT'S THE INDUSTRY THAT GAINS THE MOST FROM THE EXPERIENCE AND LEARNINGS GAINED BY TEAM MEMBERS."** NSW Mines Rescue General Manager Wayne Green congratulated all the teams for their efforts during the day. "In the few short months I have been with NSW Mines







Rescue, I have been privileged to witness the unwavering dedication and commitment of brigades personnel and the people who train them. This event showcases the best of their efforts and acknowledges the exceptional skills that have earned their place to compete at this level.

'The mines rescue competitions run across NSW and QLD – and indeed this competition – are of the highest calibre; the result of countless hours of planning to deliver realistic scenarios to challenge and test brigades' capabilities and ensure a memorable experience for all,' he said.

Representing NSW

- Peabody Wambo (Hunter Valley)
- South32 Appin Pink (Southern)
- Centennial Clarence (Western)
- Team Orange (Newcastle)

Representing Qld

- Anglo-American Grosvenor
- Anglo-American Moranbah North
- Kestrel
- Glencore Oaky North



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Monadelphous' Maintenance & Industrial Services have experienced high levels of success and growth over the past year servicing mine sites across NSW – From Pit to Port.

Our success comes down to great people. From our industry leading workforce, to the world class people across our supplier network and the mine owners we work with everyday, we would like to say thank you.

As we bid farewell to the success of 2019, we will continue to deliver even greater resources to rapidly respond to our clients needs and deliver the highest level of service and value for our clients operations. Our branch's across the Hunter Valley, Mudgee and Gunnedah allow us to flex when required and rapidly respond to our clients short term critical needs. At Monadelphous we are passionate about building long lasting relationships built on our core values Safety, Integrity, Teamwork, Loyalty & Achievement.

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RECORD BREAKING RUGBY

THIS YEAR'S A-PLUS CONTRACTING HUNTER VALLEY MINING CHARITY RUGBY LEAGUE DAY HAS BEEN A ROARING SUCCESS WITH LONG-TIME PARTICIPANTS CROWNED FIRST TIME CHAMPIONS, A RECORD-BREAKING NUMBER OF TEAM ENTRIES AND AN ASTONISHING \$120,000 RAISED FOR THE WESTPAC RESCUE HELICOPTER SERVICE.

It was the sweetest of victory for the 2019 Men's Champions the Wambo Wolves after finally securing their first win after many finals' appearances during the past several years. In our ladies competition, the Valley Vixens battled it out and finally claimed a win over rival Hunter Hawkettes at Singleton's Pirtek Park on Saturday October 23.

Following some 'serious training' sessions and a determination to play with pride for their Wambo mine site, the Wolves battled it out with the reigning champions the Bengalla Badgers until the final minutes, in a convincing 13 - 8 grand final

win. Whilst the Valley Vixens were victorious over the Hunter Hawkettes in a hard fought 2-1 series victory in the third annual 'Women in Mining' series.

UNDENIABLY THE BIGGEST WINNER ON THE DAY WAS THE WESTPAC RESCUE HELICOPTER SERVICE, WITH A RECORD BREAKING \$120,000 RAISED, BRING TOTAL FUNDS RAISED DURING THE PAST SIX YEARS OF THIS EVENT TO A TOTAL OF \$412,000.

Organised by the Singleton Volunteer Support Group for the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service, this year's event saw over 450 mining employees come together to make up the

23 teams competing in the rugby league 10's competition. Event Coordinator and Community Liaison Officer for the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service Danny Eather said he is just astounded by the continued support of both the business community and the wider



community in supporting this event.

"We knew that this year was going to be big on the field with 23 teams participating, however we just never anticipated it to be so big off the field with \$120,000 to be raised from this single day event."

"SOMETIMES YOU QUESTION WHETHER OR NOT THE SUPPORT FOR AN EVENT WILL DWINDLE AWAY, HOWEVER THIS IS NOT THE CASE WITH THE CHARITY RUGBY LEAGUE DAY, EACH YEAR IT JUST SEEMS TO GET BIGGER AND BETTER. OUR TEAM OF COMMITTED VOLUNTEERS HAVE WORKED HARD TO ESTABLISH THIS EVENT TO BE A HIGHLY ANTICIPATED EVENT ON THE LOCAL SPORTING CALENDAR," MR EATHER SAID.

More than 80 local businesses supported the teams to help

their fundraising targets with major sponsorship secured from A-Plus Contracting along with Jennings Print, Pirtek, TyreDoctor, Mine Super, Pirtek, Slater & Gordon, Aletek, NSW Mining, Mader NSW, Yancoal Mt Thorley Warkworth, Bowers Heavy Haulage, Hunter Valley Operations, Hunter Isuzu Ute, OilTest, Coal Services, Imperial Hotel, ISC, @The Coalface and the Imperial Hotel.

Coal Services Mines Rescue, Group 21 Rugby League Referees Association, Singleton Rugby League Club and the Singleton Rotary and Lions clubs all provided in-kind support and assistance on the day.

The continued support from the Upper Hunter community and the mining sector for fundraising events like these helps to ensure that the rescue helicopter is available 24-7 for those who need it.



LEFT: MERCHANDISE COORDINATOR AND 2018 CLUB PERSON OF THE YEAR, NATASHA DEAKIN
RIGHT: SECRETARY BIANCA JOHNSTON

REMARKABLE RUGBY LEAGUE COMMITMENT

NRL AUSTRALIA HAS RECOGNISED PASSIONATE LOCAL BIANCA JOHNSTON FOR HER COMMITMENT TO THE WOMEN'S GAME, AWARDING HER THE NRL WOMEN IN LEAGUE AWARD FOR 2019.

Bianca Johnston is an Industrial Clean shift worker at Mt Arthur South for Blackrock Industries, Secretary of the Muswellbrook District Junior Rugby League Football and is a mother to 3 beautiful children. Working in and out of the mines between having children and operating hotels, Bianca said the ride has been amazing.

Living and working in Muswellbrook for her entire life, Bianca has no plans on slowing down on her busy schedule, describing her work life balance as "organised chaos."

With her 3 brothers playing league, footy was a natural choice for Bianca with her kids also following in her footsteps. "I have a daughter and 2 sons, and we are very family oriented and spend a lot of time

together at footy, it's in our blood," said Bianca.

ACCORDING TO NRL AUSTRALIA, "THE WOMEN IN LEAGUE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD IS PRESENTED TO SOMEONE WHO HAS ACTED AS AN EXCEPTIONAL ADVOCATE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT AND OPPORTUNITY OF WOMEN IN RUGBY LEAGUE."

"The winner's unique contributions will have raised awareness of women's involvement in rugby league and will have played an active role in encouraging more girls and women to participate in the game."

Bianca had no idea she was being nominated until she received an email inviting her to the volunteer awards evening and was completely surprised when she won the NRL Women in League Award. On top

of that, representing the Greater Northern Region, Bianca took home the Women in League title at the CRL Community awards late August. "It meant everything to me to receive these awards," Bianca said.

As secretary of the Muswellbrook District Junior Rugby League Football, Bianca organised everything to do with the club from teams to parents to volunteers and everything footy. The female game in Group 21 has come leaps and bounds since Bianca stepped up in 2016, now with more than 100 registered women across six tackle and league tag games.

CHAMPIONING WOMEN'S RUGBY LEAGUE IN OUR REGIONAL TOWN,

JOHNSTON SINGLE-HANDEDLY FILLED THE TEAMS FINDING COACHES, TRAINERS AND MANAGERS AND PASSIONATE LOCAL WOMEN.

Never missing a game, Bianca hopes to keep building bigger and better things for women of the sport. "My goals for the future are to try and have pathways in my area for all my girls and have my club grow in participation and volunteer numbers," she said.

With continued growth in the Muswellbrook Women's game and passionate members like Bianca Johnston, it's exciting to think about where the future of women's footy could be in the next 5 years.

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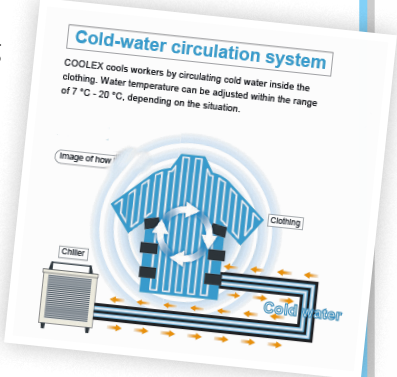
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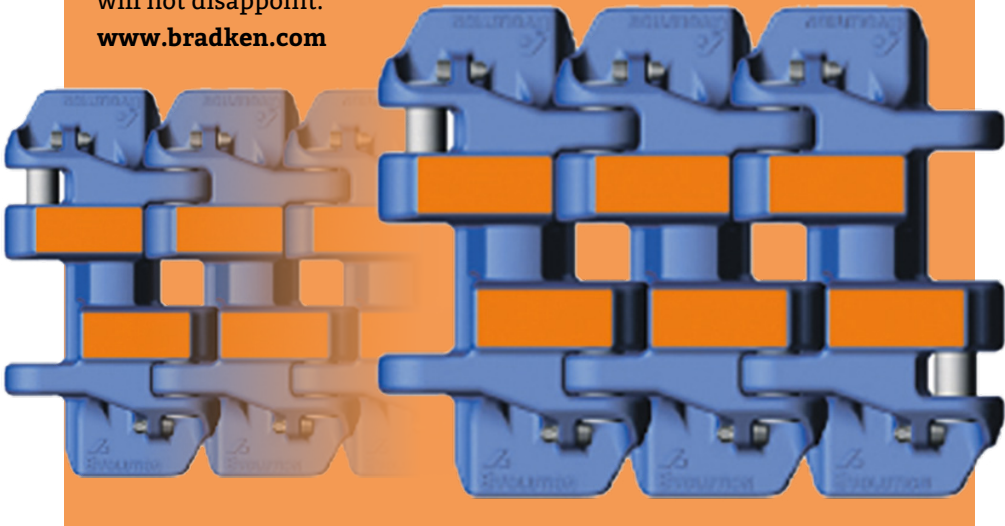
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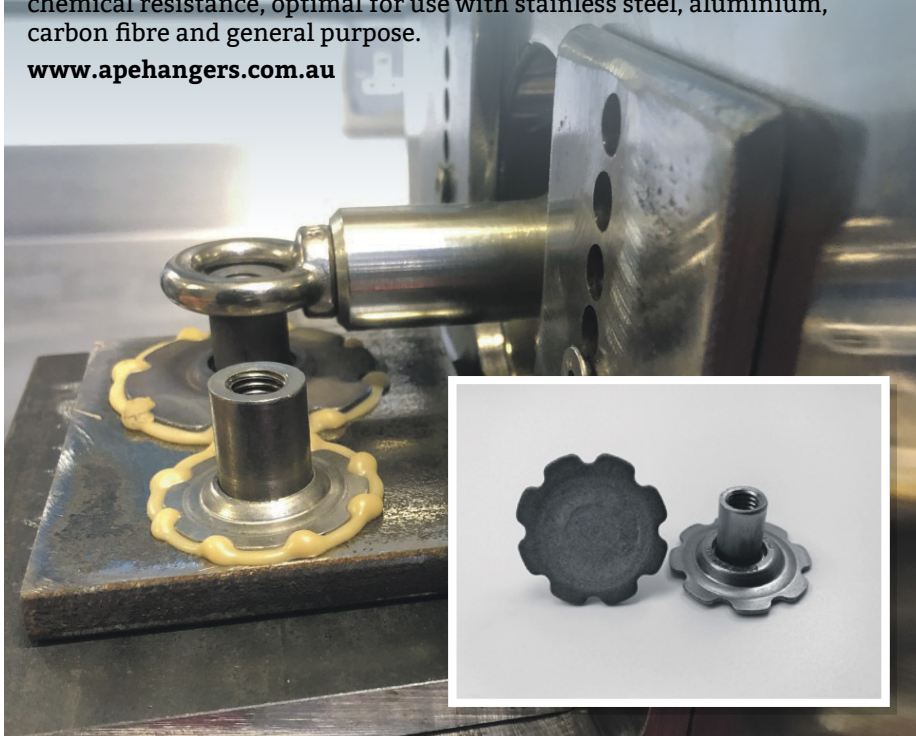
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UNDISPUTED CHAMPION

IN MY LAST ARTICLE I TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW THE CATEGORY OF OFF-ROAD DUMP TRUCK KNOWN AS ARTICULATED DUMP TRUCKS COLLOQUIALLY REFERRED TO AS ‘ARTICS’. ‘FAR FROM FRIGID’, THESE HIGHLY VERSATILE OFF-ROAD HAULERS OFFER OPERATORS FLEXIBILITY ACROSS MULTIPLE APPLICATIONS WHERE THEIR RIGID EQUIVALENTS ARE OFTEN UNABLE TO RELIABILITY OPERATE.

Generally ranging in size from 25t through to 60t, these trucks have come a long way since their inception where they were relative light weighing in at circa 10t versus the much larger units hauling dirt today.

‘Rugged’ in nature, these original machines were void of the common comforts afforded today, lacking suspension, they had manual transmissions and made their operators work hard for their money. It wasn’t until recent times in the late

80’s and early 90’s that the Artic we know today really started to come of age incorporating such technologies as fully automatic transmission, automatic diff locks and oil-cooled wet disk brakes.

ACCOUNTING FOR HALF OF ALL GLOBAL SALES, VOLVO IS THE UNDISPUTED CHAMPION OF THIS CATEGORY.

Pioneering the category in the 50’s and early 60’s in partnership with a tractor trailer manufacturer Lihnell’s Vagn AB (Livab), Volvo introduced their first commercial offering to markets in 1966 before absorbing Livab into Volvo BM in 1974.

Unsurprisingly, the first Artics weren’t as we know them today, rather a trailer with a powered axle mated to an agricultural tractor that utilised its power take-off shaft to drive the trailer’s axle, with the tractor retaining its front axle to steer much like our cars today.

Fast forward 13 years and the front axle used for steering was dropped, the trailer permanently attached to the tow unit, with steering provided through the use of hydraulic cylinders forcing the trailer and wagon to turn (push and pull) in relation to each other.

OF COURSE, IN AUSTRALIA WE HAVE A PENCHANT FOR A CERTAIN YELLOW AND THE VOLVOS ARE NOT AS PROMINENT HERE AS THEIR GLOBAL DOMINANCE SUGGESTS.

In 2016 Volvo introduced its first 60-ton class truck, the A60H. Capable of climbing hills of up to 45 degrees, this category king weighs in at 54.4t offering a 40% increase in payload over its A40G sibling. Offering off-road versatility and size, these machines are attractive to operators that desire flexibility in both application, size and transport.

While 75% of Artic sales still reside in the 30 to 40t category, the demand for this new size is expected to increase with companies afforded a viable alternative to rigid dump trucks that can operate on soft, uneven or steep roads and allow a similar amount of material to be hauled in shorter cycle times.

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TIPS FOR TRUCKIES

BY MARTHA VESSEY

WITH EMPLOYMENT LEVELS ON THE RISE AGAIN, THE MINING SECTOR IS SEEING AN INFLUX OF INDUSTRY NEWCOMERS. IF YOU'RE ONE SUCH NEWBIE AND YOU'RE STARTING OUT AS A HAUL TRUCK OPERATOR, GIVE THESE TIPS A GO AND BECOME A TOP TRUCKIE IN NO TIME.

MAKE THE TWO-WAY YOUR FRIEND.

I hate a busy two-way. It can be one of the most frustrating aspects of the job, and I think you'd have to be super-human not to shout bad words at it sometimes. Often, even. But alas; them's the breaks.

The two-way comes with the job. It's our number one defence against emergencies (or potential emergencies) and it's how we communicate... positively.

Help your crew out by staying off it if you don't need to be on it, and by actually listening to it.

Taking in that information means you'll stay on top of any changes that happen during shift; you'll build your confidence because you'll know what's happening around you ... and you'll look like a guru to your colleagues.

Speaking of 'situational awareness', (excuse the cliché),

LEARN TO 'READ THE PLAY'.

There are many ways to frustrate your workmates. Trust me on this – I've tried most of them (sorry, guys).

Missing two-way instructions is a biggie, but not 'reading the play' is another.

'Reading the play' means being able

to anticipate what other operators want from you. It means thinking about how you can help keep everything flowing smoothly.

Look around and notice what's happening. Is there a tail on the dump, or a grader working on your haul road?

Notice those things. If there's a tail, head there. If a grader is working, give way to loaded trucks and – for the love of god – stay off that windrow! Nothing makes a grader operator crankier than a squashed windrow.

If being a trucking legend is your goal, reading the play is a good way to start.

DON'T 'FAKE IT 'TIL YOU MAKE IT'.

This ain't retail, guys. We operate some crazy-big machines, and we know from sad experience that they have the potential to injure or kill people.

If you're tempted to be overconfident or cocky, don't. Accept that you're new to the industry and be willing to learn.

Listen to your trainer and to other operators, and take any criticism on the chin. No one's critiquing you to be mean; they're doing it to keep you - and themselves - safe.

If you're less-than-confident, on

the other hand, you have to say so. Full stop.

If you're not comfortable driving in the wet, or you're struggling to stay awake on night shift, it's up to you to stop; then tell someone.

It may make you feel a bit stupid to ask for help, but do it anyway. I guarantee that most operators would rather have you ask a question than get it wrong.

Remember, if you have an incident because you did something you didn't feel confident doing, that's all on you.

GET TO KNOW YOUR TRUCK.

Nothing says 'rookie' more than not knowing your park brake won't release if the air pressure hasn't built up.

Obviously you'll learn as you go, and you should always call a fitter if you're not sure.

But if you can master certain basics about your truck – oil types and levels, or where your pressure gauges should be, you could save yourself a call altogether.

Take it easy on yourself, though. Remember that every operator was a newbie once, even if they pretend otherwise.

But if you take a load of dirt to the ROM, that's a carton.

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ROBERT'S RACING RETURN

IF THE LAST FEW MONTHS HAS TAUGHT US ANYTHING, IT'S THAT NOTHING CAN KEEP 19-YEAR-OLD MOTOCROSS RIDER JY ROBERT'S OFF THE BIKE.

Mucking around in the yard on a PeeWee 50 at just 18-months-old, Jy Roberts has loved riding ever since. At 5 he went on to attend his first race meet and from there dedicated everything to the sport. With goals of racing in America and winning a championship, Jy is definitely well and truly on his way to reaching that goal. At just 15 he won his first Junior Australian Supercross Championship, getting picked up by his first team.

Jy rode with Husqvarna for a couple of years before being picked up by his current team Raceline Performance with KTM Australia, last year moving to MX2 class where he spent his first year learning the ropes and training hard ready to perform in 2019.

This year saw Jy win the opening round of the MX Nationals MX2 class at Appin, Sydney and then backed that up with a win in Wonthaggi, Melbourne.

ONE WEEK BEFORE THE THIRD ROUND, JY HAD A DEVASTATING ACCIDENT DURING TRAINING. "THE JUMP WAS NEARLY 100 FOOT - I HIT IT AND TOOK MY HANDS OFF THE BARS AND AS I WENT TO PUT THEM BACK ON, I HIT THE FRONT BRAKE AND IT TIPPED ME UP THE FRONT A LITTLE BIT," SAID JY.

"I landed on the front wheel too heavy, hit my head and put myself into a coma for 8 days."

Jy's dad was there to witness the accident and rushed with him to John Hunter Hospital

Newcastle where his dad, mum and brother never left his side.

It was a long road to recovery for the young star. Jy mentioned it was the worst accident he had ever had by far after losing 1 and a half months' worth of memory. "I don't remember waking up at all," said Jy.

"I CRASHED ON THE 6TH OF APRIL AND I DON'T REMEMBER UP UNTIL THE 25TH OF MAY, SO ALL OF THAT PERIOD IS JUST GONE COMPLETELY FROM MY MEMORY," JY ADDED.

With massive support from his sponsors and his team, Jy is slowly easing back into racing by competing in a few smaller races to get ready for the Nationals March next year.

Jy has broken too many bones to count, from multiple arm breaks and his legs to his shoulder and his back. But says "injuries happen, you just have to limit the mistakes."

NOW 90% RECOVERED FROM HIS HEAD INJURY, STILL SUFFERING FROM MEMORY LOSS HERE IN THERE, JY SAYS NOTHING CAN KEEP HIM FROM GETTING BACK INTO IT AND RACING IN NATIONALS. LOOKING UP TO THE LIKES OF CHAD REID, JY WANTS TO MAKE A NAME FOR HIMSELF IN THE NATIONAL MOTOCROSS ARENA AND HIS PASSION IS SURE TO HELP HIM GET THERE.

We will be sure to give you an update on Jy's success come Nationals next year. Good luck mate!

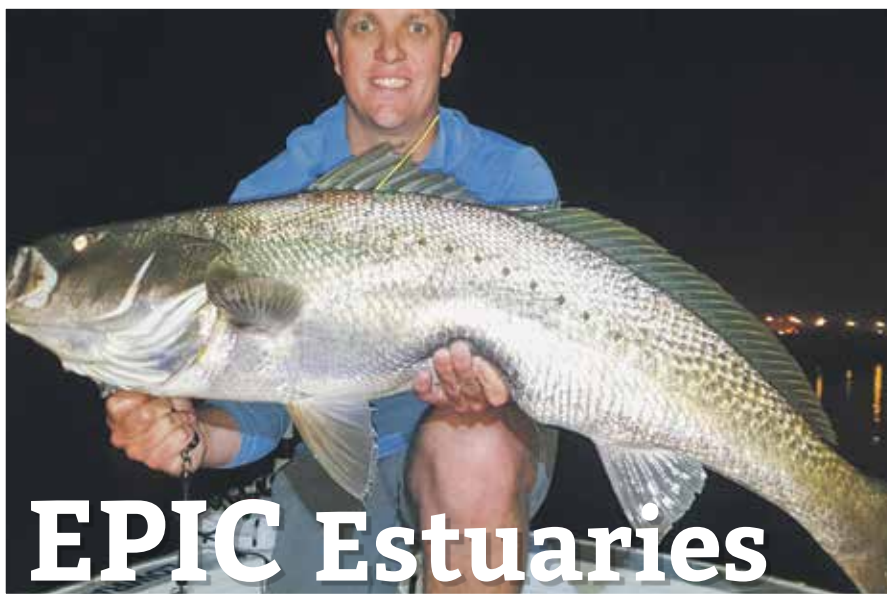


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EPIC Estuaries

SPRING HAS BEEN EPIC SO FAR WITH EVERYTHING FINNED ON THE MOVE AND THE LOCAL ESTUARIES AND LAKES GOING INTO OVERDRIVE.

Plenty of these beauties in the local estuaries. This fella was sent back home sporting a tag - it will be interesting to know where it pops up again...

ESTUARIES AND LAKES

The first big run of prawns for the season out of the way and we are seeing amazing fishing around the local estuaries and lakes. Standouts are Whiting and Flathead around the shallows, Jewies turning it on around the structure, and Kingfish have been encountered inside and especially along the breakwalls inside the bay. Live Squid and cuttlefish have also been finding the bites around the Swansea Channel/drop areas.

OFFSHORE

You would think we are still fishing mid-Winter as the Snapper are still being encountered in great numbers over and around the reefs. We found recently fishing plastics and floating baits around the masses of bait accumulating off the Bay worked well and picked up Pearl Perch and Snapper on the gravel patches along the 60 mtr line.

The fishing out wide along the shelf is starting to shape up nicely, at this



AL WITH A NICE FLATHEAD FROM PORT STEPHENS.

time of year it's really hard to know what to expect as the current hasn't really kicked into gear but looking at the charts anything could happen overnight.

Kings and Bar Cod have been thick up around Allmark Mountain and some great numbers of Dolphin Fish to 10-15kg have been found holding under the fish traps

floats south of the mountain.

LOCAL DAMS

You could fish for days in the local dams with both Lake St Clair and Glenbawn fishing consistently well and will continue to do so as we head into the summer months. November is usually the best month to fish the dams as the temps aren't too hot. On a side note Lake St Clair has seen a change with a new

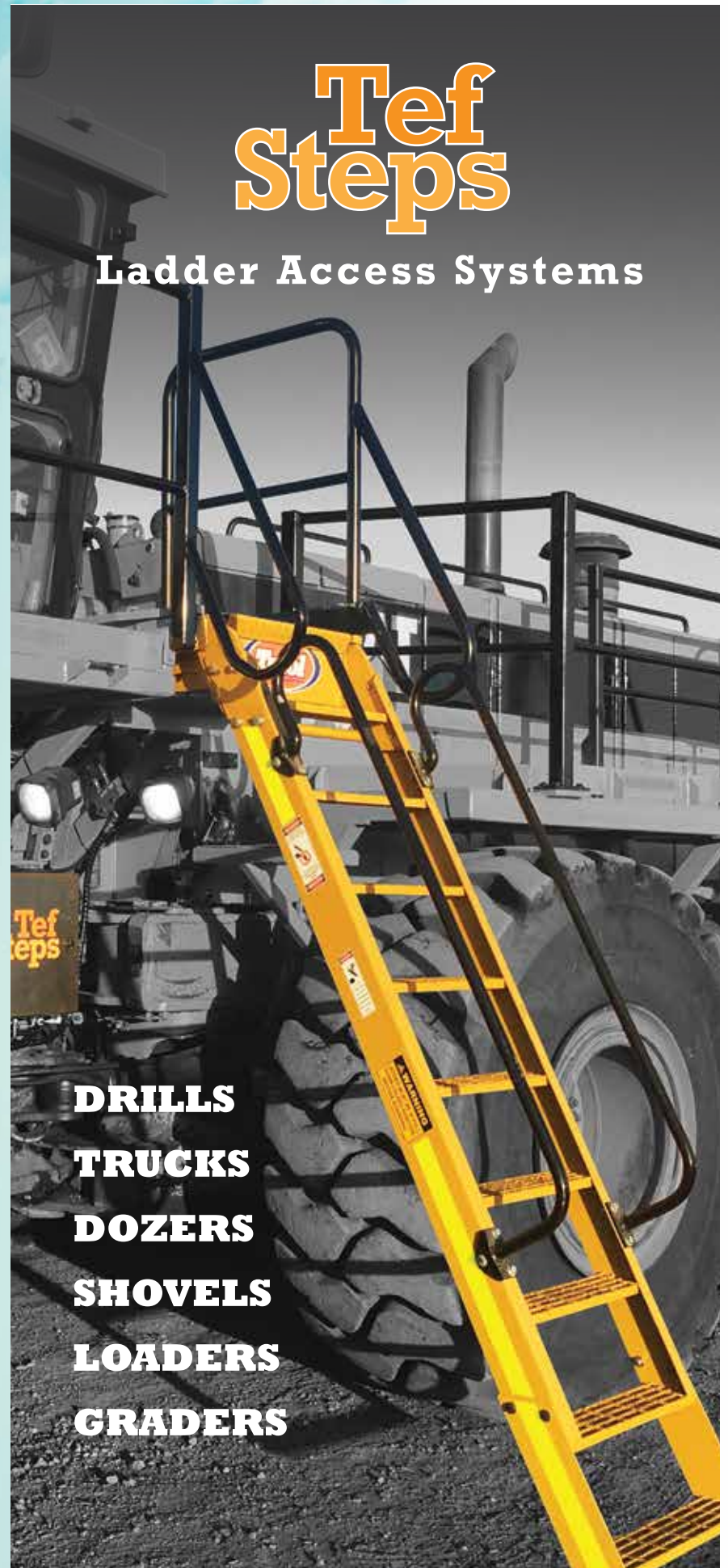
groundskeeper taking control and things are looking up for the area. It's definitely time to bust out the surface lures and let the fun begin.

KEEP FLOATIN' - THRIFTY'S

SEND US A PIC OF YOUR YOUNG GUN TO WIN A \$50 BCF VOUCHER IF IT GETS PUBLISHED!



YOUNG COOPER OUT FISHED HIS DAD RECENTLY WITH THIS NICE YELLOW BELLY HE CAUGHT ON A JACKALL TN60



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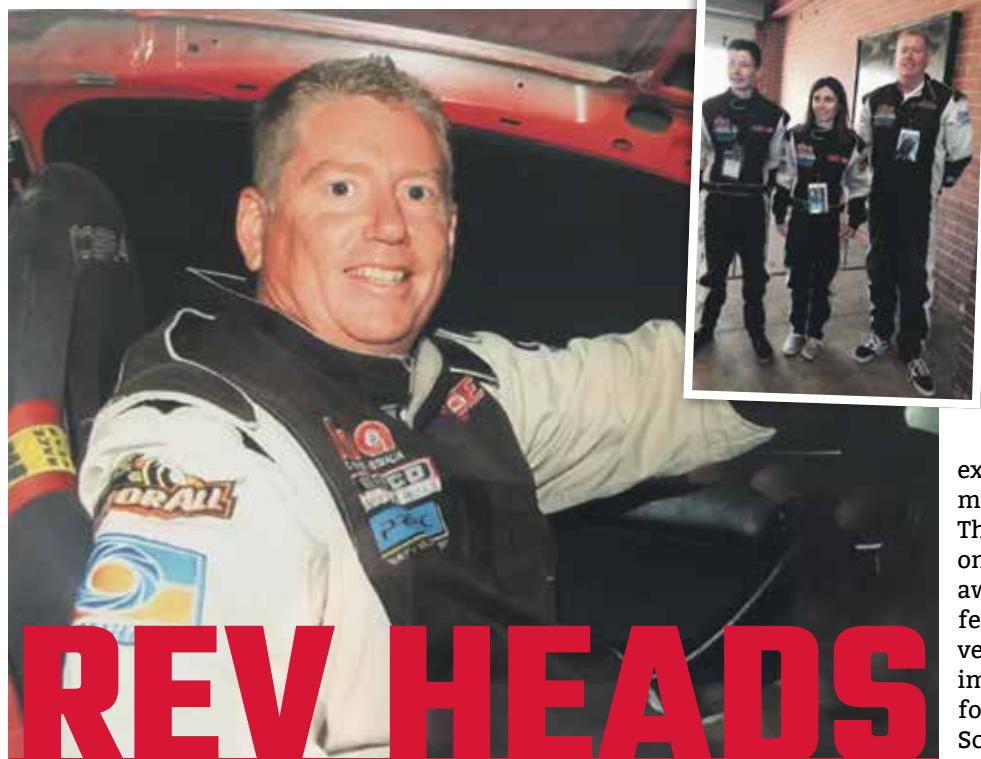
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REV HEADS

THE V8 SUPERCARS ARE COMING TO NEWCASTLE, SO WHAT BETTER TIME TO SHARE THE EXPERIENCE OF DRIVING ONE OF THESE MEAN MACHINES FOR YOURSELF.

The Coates Hire Newcastle 500 V8 Supercars are coming to Newcastle November 22 to 24 so I thought I'd jump in the driver's seat and give it a red-hot crack for myself.

To my surprise my daughter ended up buying me the experience with Adrenaline for my birthday. My dreams of zipping around the track for myself were falling into place and soon enough I was off to Eastern Creek racetrack for the experience of a lifetime.

On the day I was a little nervous

about what to expect but this was short lived as the excitement and adrenaline kicked in as soon as I suited up, put on my helmet and sat behind the wheel of the V8 in readiness to enter the racetrack.

I WAS SEATED IN ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL 450 HP V8 RACE CARS AVAILABLE TO DRIVE IN AUSTRALIA WITH SUPERCAR 6-POT BRAKES, RACING SLICKS, BILSTEIN SUSPENSION AND RACING GEARBOX THAT HANDLES LIKE A REAL V8 SUPERCAR.

My family and friends came to spectate on the day, and I was told "don't crash" more than once. It was good to see they had full confidence in my driving skills. They were able to enjoy the airconditioned VIP suite on a balcony that overlooks the start/finish line. I was keen to prove I am a racing legend.

Hesitant to give the powerful car too much speed as we first entered the track, my experienced co-driver encouraged me to "give it a bit" and off I went. The sound of the V8 engine roaring on to the racetrack was bloody awesome. It's hard to describe the feeling of being in control of a vehicle of pure speed, I can only imagine how amazing it would be for the likes of Jamie Whincup and Scott McLaughlin who get to do this as their day job.

I was then given tips on how to approach the different sections of the track to ensure I took any sharp corners or curves safely and confidently. I am pleased, and to my families surprise, to share that I didn't crash the car, spin out or have any large mishaps during my ride.

I WILL NEVER FORGET THE FEELING AND THRILL OF ENTERING THE STRAIGHT FOR THE FIRST TIME AND MY CO-DRIVER SAYING "GO GO GO" AS I PUSHED THE ACCELERATOR ON THE BIG V8. I WAS REACHING SPEEDS OF CLOSE TO 200KM PER HOUR BEFORE BREAKING HARD INTO THE FIRST CORNER.

I quickly realised just how well these cars stick to the racetrack. This gave me confidence to push the car a little harder in the remaining laps.

The thrill of a lifetime was all over too quick leaving an excited feeling of "I have to do this again." I would highly recommend this experience for anyone who enjoys speed and adrenaline.

'AVE A LAUGH WITH

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BUY ANY TORO MOWER AND YOU COULD WIN THE PRICE OF YOUR MOWER BACK

A boss was complaining in a staff meeting one day that he wasn't getting any respect. Later that morning he went to a local sign shop and bought a small sign that read "I'm the Boss". He then taped it to his office door.

Later that day when he returned from lunch, he found that someone had taped a note to the sign that said, "Your wife called, she wants her sign back!"

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UPCOMING TOUR DATES:

8 November	'Dice Rileys' Wollongong
9 November	'Weekend Club' Potts Point
22 November	'Park House' Mona Vale
6 December	'The Northern' Byron Bay
7 December	'The Federal' Bellingen
8 December	'Flow Bar' Old Bar
14 December	'The Junkyard' Maitland

MAITLAND MUSO'S

DYER MAKER IS A LOCAL 5-PIECE PSYCHEDELIC ROCK BAND CAPTIVATING AUDIENCES AROUND AUSTRALIA WITH THEIR ENERGETIC, ORIGINAL SOUND.

Growing up in Maitland, Lead Vocalist Tim Howell, Bass Guitarist Ben Youngman, Rhythm Guitarist Tom Turner, Drummer Michael Chilcott and Lead Guitarist Alex Dorn have built a musical empire with followers coming far and wide to enjoy their shows.

Forming around 3 years ago, DYER MAKER started with Tim, Tom and Ben as 3-piece, mucking around with some electronic infused alternative rock type music in their parents' garage, turned makeshift studio. After their first release called 'Black Coats', the fellas decided to build the band in hopes of performing live shows with Michael and Alex joining the mix.

All members said they have been into music as long as they have known. "There's been very constant influences within all of us, each of us having some guilty pleasures that have helped shape the way we sound today," said Ben.

"Constant influences across the board would have to be big bands like RHCP, Rage Against the Machine, The Rolling Stones, Jimi Hendrix...you know the usual suspects for 14-year-old boys that have just discovered instruments and rock music."

Now drawing inspiration from the likes of Chet Faker, Flume, Kayne, Sticky Fingers and even Beyoncé, their sound is constantly evolving.

"It's a pretty open concept in Dyer that makes it hard to explain what we sound like, it keeps changing, it keeps growing, we keep drawing inspiration from different places and each of us go through things at different times," said Ben.

PLAYING AND TOURING MOST WEEKENDS, THE BAND EXPRESSED HOW SURREAL IT WAS TO HAVE GROWN SUCH A FOLLOWING. DRIVING AS FAR AWAY AS 14-HOURS, THEY STILL FIND FANS SCREAMING THEIR SET WORD FOR WORD IN THE CROWD. IT'S CLEAR THEIR HARD WORK IS PAYING OFF.

Setting up and packing down their own gear at each gig, there's bound

to be a mishap or two. In their earlier days playing at The Lass Newcastle, the boys had a few too many bevy's. "Dorny decided it was the right time to donate all his gear to a random and put it all in this random van...when it was discovered the next morning and the panic set in, a couple of coffees, some foggy detective work and a call to the 5.0 later and we were able to track it all down," Ben laughed.

With a jam packed few months of gigs coming up, seeing DYER MAKER live is a must. You won't find another band as passionate and original as our Maitland fellas. "Our goal is to be the biggest band to come out of Newcastle this side of Silverchair," said Ben.

"All we know is we will just keep making whatever music we are proud of and that we enjoy."

FROM JAMMING TOGETHER AT PARTIES TO UPLOADING VIDEOS TO FACEBOOK, THE NOW FULL BAND BEGAN CREATING MUSIC AND HASN'T LOOKED BACK SINCE. TODAY, THEY HAVE RELEASED 3 EPS, A LIVE EP, A COUPLE OF SINGLES, PLAYED AT FESTIVALS AND TOURED EXTENSIVELY, CLEARLY 'KILLING IT' TOGETHER.

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HINTON'S HOT SPOT

THE VICTORIA HOTEL HINTON IS MORE THAN A PUB, IT'S A DELICIOUS, DELIGHTFUL AND NOSTALGIC EXPERIENCE THAT YOU'LL WANT TO DO OVER AND OVER AGAIN.

The sun was beaming, my stomach was grumbling, and boy was I in need of a good feed and bevvy. Here @ The Coalface Magazine we love a pub feed and The Victoria Hotel Hinton is up there with some of the best pub meals out. Located just 4km from Morpeth, the tiny town of Hinton sits on the banks of the Hunter River. A beautiful rural town full of rich history, it's definitely worth the visit. One the town's main attractions is The Victoria Hotel, on the corner of Old Punt Road. The historic building has been continuously licensed since 1840 and is the oldest remaining pub in the Hunter Valley. A pub that has lasted that long is obviously a pub that's doing something right. Now licensed under the Victoria Hotel Hinton, you'll enjoy taking in the historic elements around you.

TO START WE HAD THE COB LOAF. THAT'S RIGHT! COB LOAF! THE DELECTABLE, AUSSIE FAVOURITE SERVED AT BACKYARD PARTIES AND FAMILY GATHERINGS. SERVED WITH A TRADITIONAL CHEESY, BACON AND CORN FILLING WE COULDN'T GET ENOUGH. MY COLLEAGUE AND I COULD HAVE EASILY CONSUMED AN ENTIRE LOAF EACH BUT ALAS WE HAD TO ENSURE THERE WAS ROOM FOR OUR MAINS.

I ordered the Chicken Breast topped with avocado and creamy garlic prawns. The chicken was juicy and cooked to perfection and the avocado and garlic prawns added the perfect flavour and texture to each bite. I was in heaven. My colleague ordered the Slow Cooked Lamb Shanks in black beer gravy served with seasonal veg and mash. In her words, "the meat is so tender, it's delicious!" I had to try the Lamb Shanks for myself and stole a fork full. The black beer gravy was the perfect addition to an already perfectly cooked shank. I

went for another fork full but was swatted away by a hungry hand across from me, these dishes are hard to share they are that good. All dishes, including our entr  e and two mains, were extremely generous in size. It felt like we had just sat down to a big home cooked meal. The pub was packed, and our meals still came out in a timely manner and this did not hinder the quality of the food one bit. You can tell that the chefs take pride in each and every dish.



IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A MENU THAT'S GOING TO IMPRESS THE WHOLE FAMILY, FROM KIDS TO GRANDMA AND GRANDPA, THEN THIS IS THE PUB FOR YOU.

BOOK A TABLE AT WWW.VICTORIAHOTELHINTON.COM.AU

'AVE A LAUGH WITH



PH 6571 1589

'BUY ANY TORO MOWER AND YOU COULD WIN THE PRICE OF YOUR MOWER BACK'

Thomas has tried out for every school play since 2nd grade and he finally gets a part. He rushes home and yells to his father, "I got a part! I got a part!" His dad asks him, "Oh yeah? Who do you play?" His son replies, "I play a man who's been married for 30 years with 4 children." The father says, "Oh, I'm sorry son. Maybe next time you'll get a speaking part."

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Locally owned and operated, Northwest Mining Company is based in Muswellbrook and provide labour, equipment and automotive services throughout the Hunter Valley.

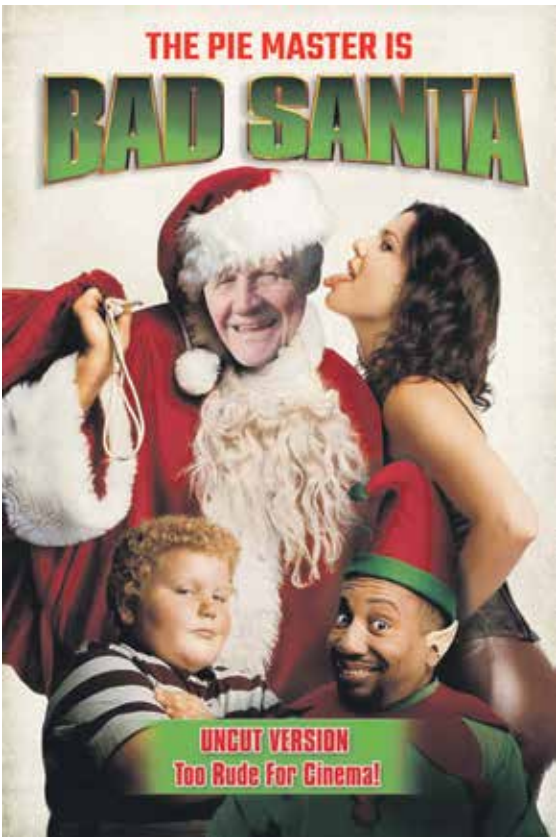
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PIE MINISTER

WOULD YOU
LOOK
AT THE
TIME!

WHAT TIME IS IT I HEAR
YOU ASK? YES MY MERRY
LITTLE BAND OF CHRISTMAS
CRACKERS...IT'S SANTA TIME!

In a little over a month, the jolly fat bastard made famous by the Coca Cola Company to sell more Coke in the thirties, will be revving up the reindeers and making his lists and checking them twice. At the same time the bakers of The Valley will also be stoking up their pie ovens ready to receive their annual load of fruit mince pies. The pies will then be used to fatten up the masses in preparation for their New Years Resolutions to lose all the kegs they put on over Chrissy with a bright shiny new gym membership they will never use. On other little-known festive facts and traditions;
DID YOU KNOW THAT YOURS TRULY WAS THE OFFICIAL SUPPLIER OF COAL TO SANTA FOR ALL THE NAUGHTY KIDS AND REINDEERS TO POWER THE SLEIGH FOR MANY A YEAR?



That's right, my old mate St Nic and I go way back. Back when I first started in coal mining you see, I was sidelining as a shopping mall Santa on Saturday mornings due to our matching girth sizes, love of drink and ability to wrangle a reindeer. I also used to go deer hunting every year to stock up the freezer for the festive season and word soon got back to Santy Pants that I was the world's best. Anyway, Mr Santa decided to look me up and ask a favour. After deputizing me as a somewhat deformed elf, he then

charged me with keeping an eye out for the best of the best in reindeer land, and supply him with champion specimens capable of handling the Crissy prezzy run. I supplied replacement Rudolf's, Prancer's and Dancers for years from right here in the Hunter National parks.
FROM THERE HE FOUND OUT I ALSO HAPPENED TO BE THE WORLD'S BEST COAL MINER AND HIRED ME TO SUPPLY ALL THE COAL FOR THE LITTLE SHITS OUT THERE WHO NEEDED A WIDE BROWN BELT ACROSS A BARE BUM MORE THAN A PREZZY FOR BEING A LITTLE SHIT ALL YEAR.

Every year after putting together Santa's order I would hitch up a horse float to the Kingswood two weeks before the big day filled to the brim with livestock and black stuff. We'd then rendezvous on midnight at the old military landing strip at the back of Hunter Valley Operations before he headed back to the North Pole for final preparations.
So there you have it. The good old Hunter Valley plays a big part in making Christmas happen and without yours truly, Christmas would probably have been cancelled. Thank me later. It's drinkin' season people... raise a glass and a fruit mince pie to me!
Ho, Ho, Ho...Sol, Sol, Sol!

I COULD
EAT
A HORSE

WIN!

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P	I	L	U	T	L	N	J	O	N	Q	U	I	L	I
A	A	L	Y	S	S	U	M	A	R	I	G	O	L	D

AGAPANTHUS	DAISY	JONQUIL	RANUCULUS
ALYSSUM	DANDELION	LARKSPUR	ROSE
AMARYLLIS	DAY FLOWER	LILY	SNAPDRAGON
BEGONIA	FOXGLOVE	MARIGOLD	SUNFLOWER
BLUEBELL	FREESIA	NASTURTIUM	SWEET PEA
COSMOS	HOLLYHOCK	ORCHID	TULIP
CROCUS	HYACINTH	PANSY	
DAFFODIL	IRIS	PORTULACA	

@ THE COALFACE PRIZE WINNERS

VOLUME 4 – NO 1: OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2019

Components Only Crib for the Crew	Maree Scott
Roberts Meats Raffle	Nigel Mcilveen
Café La Luna Cake	Andrew McGill
Beer's On Us	Paul Hodgson
Crib Bag	Theresa Bailey
Complete Parts	James Barber
Oliver Boots	Anne Beckett

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR WINNERS!

THIS MONTH'S @ THE COALFACE TRIVIA COALFACE CONUNDRUMS

- Q1. What 4-letter word can be written forward, backward or upside down, and can still be read from left to right?
- Q2. People buy me to eat, but never eat me. What am I?
- Q3. What comes down but never goes up?
- Q4. Which side of a cat has the most fur?
- Q5. It can be cracked, It can be made, It can be told, it can be played. What is it?
- Q6. What jumps when it walks and sits when it stands?
- Q7. Where is the only place that yesterday always comes after today?
- Q8. What do you bury when it's alive and dig up when it's dead?

A1: NOON A2: A PLATE A3: RAIN A4: THE OUTSIDE A5: A JOKE A6: A KANGAROO A7: A DICTIONARY A8: A PLANT



MACHEnergy Mount Pleasant Operation

MACH Energy Australia oversees commitments relating to the Aboriginal Community Development Fund (ACDF)

MACH Energy welcomes the opportunity this provides for us to make a meaningful contribution to the sustainability and well-being of Aboriginal communities in the Upper Hunter Valley

ACDF - "Targeting issues, needs & opportunities of local Aboriginal communities"

For Applications or further information about the ACDF please visit:
<https://machenergyaustralia.com.au/aboriginal-community-development-fund/>

Packed Paradise

MILLIONS OF LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL VISITORS FLOCK TO SURFERS PARADISE YEAR AFTER YEAR, MAKING IT ONE OF AUSTRALIA'S FAVOURITE TOURIST DESTINATIONS. IF YOU HAVEN'T TAKEN YOUR FAMILY THERE YET, HERE'S WHY YOU SHOULD.



If you like your holidays to be filled with action and adventure, then Surfers Paradise is for you. Beaches, theme parks, aquatic adventures, tours, markets, sightseeing, festivals, there's heaps to see and even more to do.

The biggest attractions are the theme parks and there's certainly plenty of them with Movie World, Wet & Wild, Sea World, Paradise Country, Dreamworld and Whitewater World. Tickets are pricey so decide where you want to go and then buy online in discount packs. Don't fall for the street vendors promising you discounted tickets as there's always a catch.

SEA WORLD IS MY TOP PICK AS IT HAS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE IN THE FAMILY.

I could watch the polar bears frolicking all day long, the little ones love the Paw Patrol show and meeting Dora, and no matter what your age you will be charmed by the dolphin and seal shows. Top tip is to head to the rides during these popular show times as it's a great way to avoid queues.

If you want to cool off at a water park, both water parks are fairly similar though Whitewater World is my pick if you have younger children. Both parks offer plenty of rides guaranteeing you thrills and

excitement. And wedgies... If you don't have a pair of board shorts then for the sake of the people coming down after you, get some.

EVERY PARK HAS ONE THING IN COMMON. LONG, LONG QUEUES.

When it comes down to it, your time at theme parks is broken down as follows: standing in queue to gain entry 5%, standing in queue for rides or attractions 70%, standing in queue for food or drinks or ice-cream 10%, standing in queue for toilet 5% (add 5% for each child).

When you need a break from queueing up and forking out the cash at the theme parks then head to Surfers Paradise Beach with its 2km stretch of golden sand and iconic lifeguard towers. Relax on the sand or try a surf lesson. Or take a stroll along one of the beautiful coastal walks.

A GREAT WAY TO ESCAPE THE HORDES OF TOURISTS IS BY PUTTING ON SOME HIKING BOOTS AND EXPLORING SOME OF THE BEAUTIFUL HINTERLAND.

The Gondwana Rainforests contain a fascinating diversity of animals and plants and are a World Heritage Area. There's plenty of charming mountain villages full of antiques, galleries and delectable treats. Plus, there's a ton of vineyards just waiting for you to drop in and sample their wine.

In the evening there's loads to entertain at the esplanade with a street performer on every corner. Check out the weird and wacky at Ripley's Believe it or Not or wander through the beachside markets where you'll find plenty of overpriced junk just waiting for a gullible buyer.



ONE THING YOU WON'T RUN OUT OF AT SURFERS ARE PLACES TO EAT.

Hurricane's Grill & Bar overlooking Surfers Paradise Beach is my favourite spot. Their basted chicken and ribs duo keeps me coming back again and again. Other top spots are Misono Japanese Steakhouse which do a sensational sizzling Teppanyaki or try Critique Restaurant at the Marriott Resort & Spa for an indulgent seafood buffet.

Or enjoy some entertainment while you eat at the Outback Spectacular. The themed show is a celebration of our nations heritage and culture and is a mix of rodeo, light show and musical theatre. The skill of the performers is amazing to watch (especially the animals!) If you don't enjoy a night out at the Outback Spectacular than don't call yourself an Aussie.

One of the best ways to appreciate the beauty of the Gold Coast is from the top of the Q1 Building where you can enjoy a cocktail on the Sky Point Observation Deck with its 360-degree views. This is a great place to watch the sunset. If you could just see it through all the selfie sticks!

All in all, Surfers Paradise is a great family holiday destination. It's just a shame that you have to share it with so many other families!

Back to Singleton 2020

Back to Singleton is a whole-of-community commemoration focusing on the history of St Patricks Plains with the arrival of the exploration party, led by John Howe and including two Aboriginal guides along with Benjamin Singleton, on 15 March 2020.

It's also an occasion for everyone in our community to come together to mark what we love about living, working and playing in Singleton.

You can start planning your year of commemorations now. The official event program will be available from 25 November 2019.

To keep up to date with all the latest news about Back to Singleton 2020 events, visit

singleton.nsw.gov.au/backtosingleton2020





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